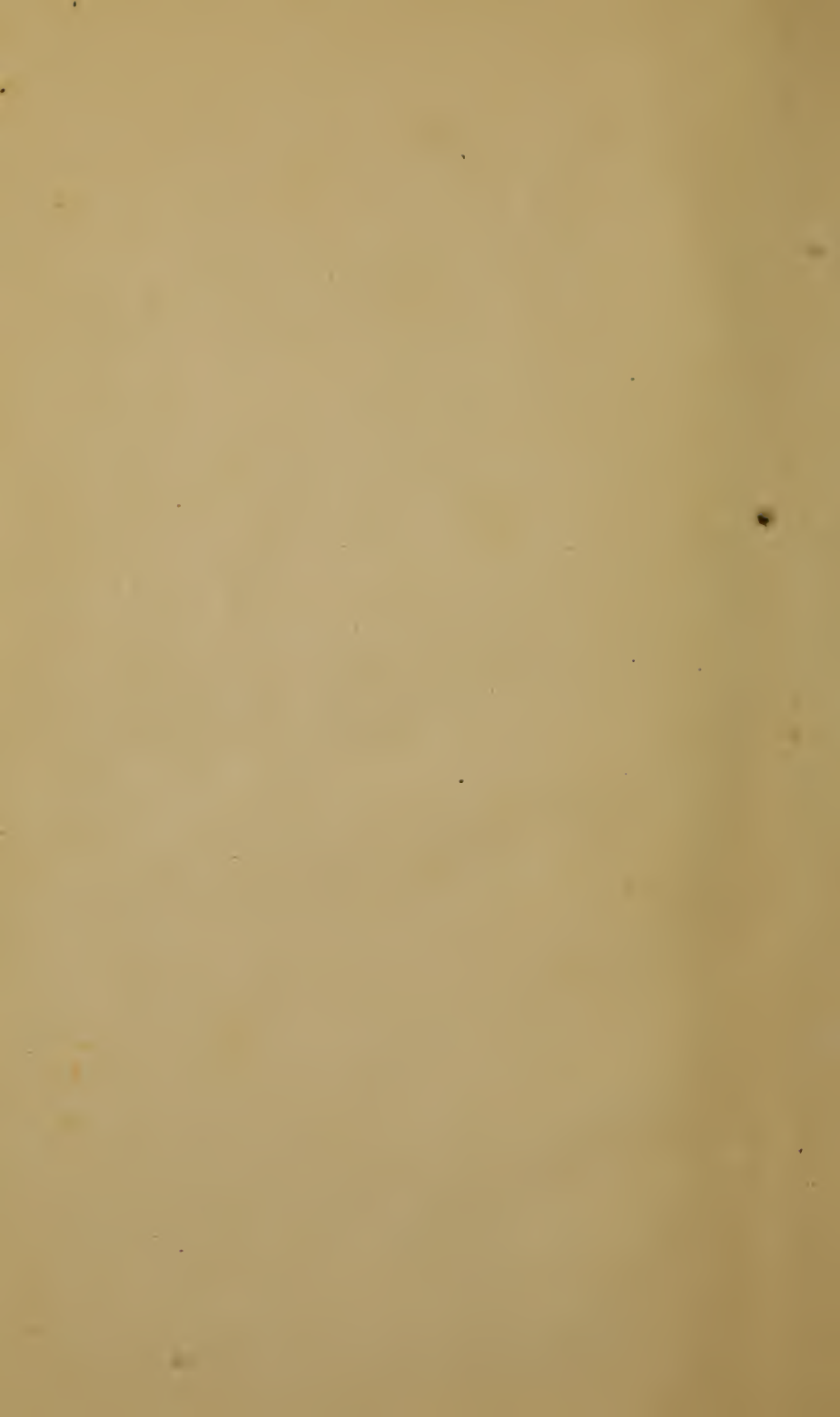


1872-73

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES
OF THE
TOWN OF READING,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1873;
THE
REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 1872-73;
THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY;
ALSO OF THE BOARD OF ENGINEERS.

BOSTON:
HOLLIS & GUNN, PRINTERS, 71 DEVONSHIRE STREET.
1873.



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RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

EXPENSES OF SCHOOLS.

HIGH SCHOOL.

Paid Cyrus A. Cole, principal	\$1,800 00	
Miss Martha Keith, assistant	600 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction	50 00	
for care of rooms	72 00	
for fuel	160 32	
	<hr/>	2,682 32

PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Lena T. Wood, principal	600 00	
Miss Jennie R. Barrus, assistant	72 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction	25 00	
for care of rooms	61 00	
for fuel	126 88	
	<hr/>	884 88

VILLAGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Paid Miss A. M. Knight, for teaching	432 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction	25 00	
for care of rooms	51 25	
for fuel	51 00	
	<hr/>	559 25

UNION STREET SCHOOLS.

UPPER MEDIUM.

Paid Mrs. M. S. Wood, for teaching	120 00	
Miss Mary A. Willis "	240 00	
for care of room	55 50	
for fuel	37 01	
	<hr/>	452 51

LOWER MEDIUM.

Paid Miss E. S. Foster, for teaching	324 00	
for care of room	55 50	
for fuel	38 49	
	<hr/>	417 99
Amount carried forward		<hr/> \$4,996 95

Amount brought forward \$4,996 95

UPPER PRIMARY.

Paid Miss Sarah H. Sweetser, for teaching	\$324 00	
for care of room	55 50	
for fuel	32 63	
	<hr/>	412 13

LOWER PRIMARY.

Paid Miss Mary Shankland, for teaching	96 00	
Miss Ruth L. Pratt, "	216 00	
Miss L. Maria Lovejoy, "	15 00	
for care of room	55 50	
for fuel	22 10	
	<hr/>	404 60

WALNUT STREET GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Sarah E. Holt, for teaching	108 00	
Miss Lizzie H. Shaw "	108 00	
Miss E. M. Porter	108 00	
for care of room	23 00	
for fuel	40 91	
	<hr/>	387 91

WALNUT STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Ruth L. Pratt, for teaching	96 00	
Miss Louise F. Williams "	108 00	
Miss Addie B. Howes "	84 00	
for care of room	22 00	
for fuel	34 25	
	<hr/>	344 25

WOBURN STREET GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Nellie F. Temple, for teaching	340 00	
for care of room	32 25	
for fuel	32 43	
	<hr/>	404 68

WOBURN STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Louise F. Williams, for teaching	72 00	
Miss L. F. Loring, "	168 00	
for care of room	19 50	
for fuel	29 92	
	<hr/>	289 42

Amount carried forward \$7,239 94

Amount brought forward \$7,239 94

LOWELL STREET MIXED SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Vienna G. Bowles, for teaching	\$100 00	
Miss Lizzie F. Clark	184 00	
for care of room	18 00	
for fuel	55 15	
	<u> </u>	357 15

MAIN STREET MIXED SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Julia McDuffie, for teaching	288 00	
for care of house	27 00	
for fuel	19 44	
	<u> </u>	334 44

HAVERHILL STREET MIXED SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Abbie Wakefield, for teaching	280 00	
for care of house	24 00	
for fuel	26 00	
	<u> </u>	330 00
		<u>8,261 53</u>
Appropriations	8,000 00	
School fund	212 25	
	<u> </u>	8,212 25
Overdrawn		<u>49 28</u>

INCIDENTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES.

Paid William Proctor, for settees	24 00	
James Reid & Co., for curtains	1 24	
Nathan Bancroft, for setting glass	6 80	
R. C. Totten, for furnace scraper for High School	75	
E. H. Babrook, for chairs	3 30	
Thompson, Bigelow & Brown, for ink	10 26	
Cyrus A. Cole, for apparatus for High School	100 00	
Citizen's Gas Light Co., for gas for High School	39 60	
E. H. Gowing, for tacks, twine, brush and oil	2 81	
" " " three thermometers	1 05	
" " " lock and key	1 50	
" " " moving settees high school	8 00	
" " " extra labor, "	7 87	
Reuben Nichols, for labor on John Street School yard	9 20	
Hollis & Gunn, for printing order of exercises, High School	8 00	
	<u> </u>	\$224 38
Amount carried forward		

Amount brought forward	\$224 38
Paid Edward Parker, for stock and labor on Woburn St.	
School house	34 63
Edward Parker, for stock and labor on Lowell Street	
School house	50 50
Edward Parker, for stock and labor on John Street	
School house	37 25
Edward Parker, for stock and labor on Haverhill Street	
School house	12 75
Edward Parker, for stock and labor on Main Street	
School house	12 75
E. H. Brabrook, for settees and chairs	14 58
J. C. Colson, for slating black boards	26 75
N. W. Broad, for repairs on Union Hall	2 50
Knight, Adams & Co., for books	31 55
Benjamin Peabody, for repairing pumps	3 00
Parker & Stone, for axe for High School house	1 25
Harper and Brothers, for C. B. books for High School	12 60
A. W. Lovering, for readers for High School	3 50
M. Whelton, for cleaning school rooms	8 50
Hiram Barrus, for books for schools	17 70
" " " manuals for schools	12 00
Knight, Adams & Co., for erasers and crayons for High	
School	4 55
Joseph L. Ross, for teacher's table	7 00
Dennis P. Babb, for cleaning vaults	3 00
Joseph L. Ross, for ink stands	2 10
Bancroft & Temple, for repairs on school houses	35 63
W. Porter, for labor on Union street "	12 60
C. H. Moulton, for removing ashes from High School	
house	1 40
J. C. Cook & Co., for stock and labor on Union Hall	68 50
Mrs. O. Austin, for cleaning High School room	2 06
G. W. Atkinson, for brooms, pails, brushes, dusters, &c.	30 65
Geo. O. Batchelder, for rent of land for Main Street	
School house	5 00
E. H. Brabrook, for chairs	2 25
Bancroft & Temple, for enlarging Preparatory School	
room	266 01
Bancroft & Temple, for labor and stock on Union Hall	6 55
Do., for labor and stock on High School House	5 39
M. Whelton, for cleaning Preparatory School room	1 75
C. H. Lang, for chairs, keys and freight	4 90
H. L. Cummings, freight of desks, settees and table	13 33
S. Harnden & Son, for furniture for High School	84 00
" " " book rack for Grammar School	2 50
Charles Hopkins, for chairs	3 50
Amount carried forward	\$1,068 86

Amount brought forward	\$1,068 86
Paid T. Littlefield & Co., for repairs on stoves and funnel, Woburn Street Schools	4 00
Do., repairs on stoves and funnel, Lowell St. Schools	3 00
Do., funnel for Union Street School	5 10
Do., 2 Magee stoves for Union Hall School	74 00
Do., 167 lbs. funnel " " " "	26 70
Do., zinc and coal hods " " " "	5 30
Do., coal grate for furnace and hot air pipe	20 00
Do., new funnel for furnace	4 50
Do., coal grate and lining for stove	2 50
Do., repairs on stove, Walnut Street School	3 50
Do., " " funnel, Union " "	1 00
Do., dippers and pail for schools	1 30
Eugene De Jean, for copper pump for High School	8 00
" " " coal hod and shovel	1 70
Wm. T. Temple, repairs on Woburn St. School house	2 00
" " dippers	22
Parker & Stone, for steps for High School	2 25
" " coal scive and shovel for High School	2 60
G. W. Parker, for brush for High School	1 00
Daniel Creeseey, for repairs on High School house	8 25
James Reid & Co., curtains and fixtures for Union Hall	10 73
J. N. Nichols, setting glass, Lowell St. School house	3 84
W. H. Bancroft, " " Union " " " "	4 45
" " " " High " " " "	1 76
" " " " Walnut St. " " " "	90
G. W. Atkinson, for brushes, shovel and saw	7 99
Citizens G. L. Co., for gas for High School	15 30
A. Nichols, grading around Haverhill St. School house	4 50
G. Beasley, removing ashes from High School house	6 00
	<hr/> \$1,301 25

EXPENSES OF POOR AT THE ALMSHOUSE.

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT THE ALMS- HOUSE.

Furniture	293 29
Beds and bedding	245 65
Provisions	54 85
Stoves and fixtures	103 75
Manure	65 00
2 horses	350 00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward	\$1,112 54

Amount brought forward	\$1,112 54	
1 cow and calf	65 00	
2 swine	22 00	
2 carts	90 00	
1 farm wagon	85 00	
1 horse sled	25 00	
1 stone wagon	20 00	
1 mowing machine	70 00	
Farming utensils	159 00	
Wood and coal	61 00	
Posts and lumber	15 00	
Hay	105 00	
18 fowls	20 50	
3 turkeys	6 00	
Grain and meal	4 25	
Produce	60 00	
Bridge and bound stone	10 00	
Bills due for labor, produce and stock	420 00	
“ “ “ wood and lumber	220 00	
	<hr/>	
	2,570 29	
Inventory, March 1, 1871	2,399 27	
	<hr/>	
More than last year	171 02	
Cash drawn for supplies	553 25	
	<hr/>	
	382 23	
Deduct supplies for 227 travellers	141 88	
	<hr/>	
Net expense of poor at he almshouse		240 35

NAMES AND AGES OF INMATES AT ALMSHOUSE.

	YEARS.
Widow Mary Dean	89
“ John McIntire	76
Miss Caroline Wiley	66
Alpheus Austin	53
Ashael Porter	73
Benjamin Weston	72

Whole number of inmates during the year	6
Present number	6
Agerage	5½

EXPENSES FOR THE POOR AT THE ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for Groceries	385 56
for provisions	299 86
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward	\$685 42

Amount brought forward	\$685 42
Paid for flour and bread	103 75
for grain and meal	198 40
for bedding and clothing	54 27
for furniture	41 25
for produce	17 88
for stock	355 00
for miscellaneous	14 55
for wood and coal	106 65
for blacksmith work	39 44
for hired labor	28 00
for farming utensils	10 85
for F. B. Kimball, for medical services	25 00
for salary of superintendent	500 00
	<hr/>
	2,180 46

CREDIT AT THE ALMSHOUSE.

Received for stock sold	88 42
for produce sold	77 51
for wood sold	287 53
for labor done off the farm	765 00
for Widow Mary Deans' dower	20 00
of Silas and Ellen E. Dean, for support of Widow Mary Dean	78 00
of sundry persons for board	292 75
of E. Studley, for boarding horse	18 00
of cash for supplies	553 25
	<hr/>
	2,180 46

EXPENSES OF POOR OUT OF THE ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for supplies for Benjamin Weston	135 70
" " " Aaron McIntire	20 27
" " " Timothy Murphy	32 75
" " " William Pierce	55 25
" " " Joseph Bryant	133 37
" " " Horatio G. Brown	10 00
" " " Samuel Poor	23 35
" " " Ivory Murray	130 42
" " " J. A. Messer	6 25
" " " Ashael Porter	10 00
" " " Henry Baker	2 81
" " " Widow Calvin Nichols	86 00
" " " " Ellen Wall	19 00
" " " " H. N. Pinkham	26 50
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward	\$691 67

Amount brought forward	\$691 67	
Paid for supplies for Widow Catherine O'Keefe	10 00	
" " " Hannah Welsh	4 00	
Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, for Abby Heselton	70 00	
for supplies for Joel Freeman's family	20 00	
Boston and Maine R. R., for transporting paupers	1 95	
		<hr/>
Due from Town of Bradford for support of Samuel Poor		797 62
		23 35
		<hr/>
Net expenses of the poor out of the Almshouse		774 27
" " " " in the Almshouse		240 35
		<hr/>
Whole expense of poor out and in the Almshouse		1,014 62

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid C. B. McIntire, services as school committee for 1871	\$60 00	
S. E. Parker, " " " 1870-71	56 00	
W. J. Wightman, " " " 1871	30 00	
Hiram Barrus, " " " 1871	50 00	
N. P. Pratt, " as selectman, assessor and overseer of poor	130 00	
W. J. Wightman, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of poor	238 00	
Charles Tweed, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of poor	125 90	
N. P. Pratt, services as road commissioner	110 00	
Charles Tweed, " " "	233 59	
James A. Bancroft, " " "	75 00	
" " " services as treasurer and collector	300 00	
W. J. Wightman, " " town clerk	25 00	
" " recording births, deaths and marriages	31 50	
" " making other official records	14 00	
W. W. Davis, services as auditor	5 00	
Andrews Howes, " " "	5 00	
John Norwood, " " police officer	65 00	
N. H. Turner, " " " and constable	21 00	
W. L. Crowe, " " " " "	34 00	
		<hr/>
		1,608 09

TOWN OFFICES.

Paid William Proctor, for rent	150 00	
for stationary	9 55	
for postage stamps	3 30	
for fuel	11 00	
		<hr/>
		173 85

DECORATION OF SOLDIERS' GRAVES.

Paid N. H. Turner, chairman of committee	150 00
Appropriation	150 00

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Paid F. H. Knight, treasurer	500 00
Appropriation	500 00

CEMETERY.

Paid Solon Bancroft, treasurer of trustees	300 00
Appropriation	500 00
Unexpended	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$500 00

ENLARGEMENT OF CEMETERY.

Paid Solon Bancroft, treasurer of trustees for land purchased of Dana Parker	2,435 83
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PRINTING.

Paid Hollis & Gunn, for printing town reports	288 36
“ “ “ “ tax bills and town warrants	18 25
	<hr/>
	306 61

NIGHT-WATCHMAN.

Paid John Norwood, for services	100 00
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MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid Nathan Bancroft, for taking care of town flag	5 00
“ “ “ repairing town flag	1 75
James McKay, for tending check list	1 50
J. L. Fairbanks, for assessors' books	10 00
George W. Dean, for ringing bell 4th of July and town meeting	2 00
Burditt and Williams, for level	2 50
Benjamin Peabody, for repairing town pumps	24 50
G. C. Gleason, for labor on Nancy Wakefield's cemetery lot	6 00
Henry S. LaClair, for tending check list	3 00
Boston Herald, for advertising reward for incendiary	15 00
Dorchester Mutual Life Insurance Company assessment	127 50
C. B. McIntire, tending check list	1 50
G. C. Gleason, for returning deaths to town clerk, 1871-2	9 80
Thomas P. Eames, for setting bound stone	2 50
C. P. Judd, for deeds and recording the same	8 75
C. H. Lang, for express for selectmen office	1 35
H. L. Cummings, “ “ “ “	2 25
S. Harnden & Son, for guide boards and sawing lumber	9 50
G. C. Gleason, for labor and stock in removing bodies from town tomb	27 15
Matthew Hanley, for mattress for Mrs. Wall	4 00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward	\$265 55

Amount brought forward	\$265 55	
Paid C. J. Adams, for support of Horace Blanchard in house of correction	8 15	
John Damon, for removing nuisance	1 00	
Edward Safford, for Lyceum Hall for town meeting	40 00	
H. Gray, for advertising reward for incendiary	7 75	
John A. Blunt, for repairs on lock up	23 14	
James M. Day, for tenling check list	1 50	
		347 09

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

For 1869	4 00	
1870	115 28	
1871	179 78	
1872	241 49	
		540 55

REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS.

Paid Charles Tweed, road commissioner, for money expended for labor	1,923 38	
Nathan P. Pratt, road commissioner, for money ex- pended for labor	201 75	
Reuben Danskin, for labor	21 25	
George Beasley, "	700 00	
Alfred Nichols, "	226 27	
David Crowell, "	65 00	
R. C. Totten, for blacksmith work	12 14	
Sanderson, Brothers & Co., for C. S. Rod	3 70	
Dodge, Gilbert & Co., for hammer and handles	1 94	
" " " for paving hammer	3 00	
Joseph L. Pratt, for labor and gravel	123 10	
John Burrill, for labor	52 90	
John G. Hutchinson, for labor	103 00	
Newton Symonds, " "	40 00	
James Bancroft, " "	20 00	
James H. Bancroft, " "	23 00	
Robert A. Harmon, " "	4 00	
Humphrey Sullivan, " "	75 92	
Emerson Smith, " "	325 00	
T. B. Pratt, for tools	2 97	
J. Adams Emerson, for repairs of highways	65 00	
James T. Norris, for gravel	17 62	
Frank Steele, for removing ledge on Main street	40 00	
G. W. Atkinson, for tools	6 32	
T. F. Gould, for blacksmith work	33 39	
Lucius Turner, for powder and fuse	2 62	
Lang's Express, for pruning saw and tape measure	2 03	
		\$4,095 30
Appropriation	\$4,000 00	
Overdrawn		95 30
		\$4,000 00

GRADING HILLS ON MT. VERNON and LINDEN STS.

Paid C. Tweed for money expended for labor	\$500 00
Appropriations	\$500 00

BUILDING NEW STREET WEST OF DEPOT.

Paid James A. Bancroft for money expended for labor, 1871,	14 50
C. Tweed " " "	225 00
R. D. Wilkins for building culvert	94 00
	<hr/> 333 50

REMOVING SNOW.

Paid J. N. Nichols for labor	1 12
David Crowell " " "	2 50
George Beasley " " "	25 00
	<hr/> 28 62

EXTRA HIGHWAY WORK.

Paid J. Adan Waldo for drain pipe	98 04
Charles A. Case for labor	20 00
" " " covering stone	15 40
Thomas Sweeter for removing wall on Washington st.	75 00
Samuel Holbrook for repairing bridge on Main st.	2 75
James T. Eames for relaying culvert on Pearl st.	5 00
Bancroft and Temple for stock and labor for side-walk on High street	124 65
C. H. Moulton for building bridge on Woburn st.	75 00
Richard D. Wilkins for covering stone for culverts	127 80
H. L. Cummings for freight on drain pipe	11 80
North Reading for repairs on Lobs Pound bridge	8 19
Richard D. Wilkins for bridge stone.	1 00
J. W. Coburn for gravel	1 38
Michael Forbes for building wall on Federal st.	30 00
C. Tweed, expended for labor on " " "	150 00
" " " Washington and Minot streets	25 00
James A. Bancroft for surveying on streets	27 75
	<hr/> 793 76

STREET LAMPS.

Paid Ames Gowing for lighting street lamps	70 00
Citizens Gas-Light Co. for gas	175 08
W. C. Milbury for lighting street lamps	34 00
G. Beasley " " "	32 25
John Pike for repairs on " " "	15 64
F. G. Williams for fluid for " " "	6 12
H. L. Cummings for teaming	0 65
T. Littlefield & Co. for repairing lantern	0 25
	<hr/> \$333 99

DAMAGES FOR LAND TAKEN FOR HIGHWAYS.

Paid Edmund Eaton for land on Washington st.	\$10 00
Moses Morse " " " Pleasant st.	275 00
W. J. Holden " " " Main st.	100 00
C. B. Leathe " " " Washington st.	5 00
Alden Batchelder for reducing grade on Main st.	275 00

665 00

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Paid members for services to May 1st, 1872	1,178 00
C. C. Cummings, services as steward of Eagle Engine, No. 4	50 00
W. H. Temple, expenses connected with purchase of iron brakes	5 00
W. H. Temple, paying express, and for straps	2 15
Samuel Brown, services as steward of Hook and Ladder Company	5 62
R. C. Totten for repairs on engines	2 25
E. E. Smith " " " Engine No. 2, 1871	5 00
W. H. Temple for labor oiling hose, and expenses	7 50
C. C. Cummings for oiling hose	9 00
William Tidd for oil	23 00
Nathan Bancroft for services as steward of Engine No. 2	25 00
Nathan Bancroft for repairs on Engine No. 2	2 00
F. O. Dewey for lantern for Engine No. 2	2 00
J. E. Hooper for labor on Eagle Engine-house	3 25
C. A. Case, services rendered Hancock Engine Co.	3 00
Parker and Stone for sundry goods	3 34
N. W. Broad for labor on Eagle Engine-house	5 50
S. M. Hall for labor and stock for cistern at Eagle Engine-house	132 00
H. A. Winship for 26 feet suction hose	97 50
W. H. Temple for paying for repairs on Eagle En- gine-house	1 25
W. H. Temple for paying repairs on fire buckets	2 00
Hunneman & Co. for iron brakes and springs	145 00
W. T. Kendall for teaming stone for cistern	2 00
W. H. Baker for wheel-jack	2 00
N. W. Broad for repairs on Engine-house No. 4	3 60
M. H. Garfield for painting Hancock Engine	100 00
Garfield & Co. for painting on Eagle Engine	5 00
Bancroft & Temple, covering reservoir on Haven st.	17 77
E. E. Smith, services as steward of Hancock En- gine Company	25 00
Whyte & Morse for caps, etc., for engines	2 50
Amount carried forward	\$1,867 23

Amount brought forward	\$1,867 23	
Paid N. W. Broad for repairs on Eagle and Hancock Engine-houses	12 12	
Dennis P. Babb for drawing Eagle Engine to Wakefield	6 00	
C. H. Lang for express from Boston	3 40	
H. L. Cummings for teaming from Boston	1 80	
Eugene DeJean for wrench, gal. iron, conductor, etc.	8 57	
Parker & Stone for snow-shovel and broom	1 30	
R. M. Boyce for coal and wood for engine-houses	13 62	
Daniel Creesey for lock and twelve keys	4 37	
G. W. Atkinson for two quarts sperm oil	1 30	
H. A. Winship for repair of hose	17 00	
John A. Blunt for hose-carriage for Hancock Engine	75 00	
“ “ “ repairs on Hancock Engine	28 95	
“ “ “ “ Eagle Engine	14 62	
“ “ “ work on cisterns	5 00	
W. L. Crowe for repairs on Eagle Engine	2 00	
		2,062 23
Appropriation	1,700 00	
Amount of appropriation unexpended 1871,	103 27	
		1,803 27
Overdrawn		259 01

STATE-AID ACCOUNT.

Paid Allen, Jules R.	48 00	
Blanchard, Sylvanus	168 00	
Berry, Daniel	48 00	
Carleton, George W.	18 00	
Davis, William W.	72 00	
Eaton, Moses F.	96 00	
Goodwin, George F.	48 00	
Hetler, Adam	48 00	
Krook, Lambertus W.	36 00	
Leathe, Charles B.	276 00	
McAllister, Benjamin	72 00	
Mears, William	72 00	
McDonald, William A.	48 00	
Monroe, Isaac	60 00	
Manning, Edwin	54 00	
Nichols, Edward E.	96 00	
Pinkham, Orlando C.	36 00	
Pinkham, Tobias	48 00	
Robinson, John E.	48 00	
Stevens, Charles H.	48 00	
Simes, George W.	112 00	
Weston, S. Nelson	96 00	
Young, Charles O.	96 00	
		\$1,744 00

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES AND RECEIPTS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

RECEIPTS.

Received for Schools (appropriation)	\$8,000 00	
“ “ Ordinary Charges (appropriation)	7,500 00	
“ “ Repairs of Highways “	4,000 00	
“ “ Interest on Town Debt “	4,400 00	
“ “ Fire Department “	1,700 00	
“ “ Public Library “	500 00	
“ “ Cemetery “	500 00	
“ “ Grading Mt. Vernon and Linden sts. (app.)	500 00	
“ “ Decorating Soldiers' Graves “	150 00	
“ “ State Corporation Tax	597 63	
“ “ Massachusetts School Fund	212 25	
“ “ School Books	3 50	
“ “ Interest on Taxes and Notes	333 26	
“ “ Dog Licenses of County Treas.	80 59	
“ “ State Aid	1,500 00	
“ “ State Tax	2,560 00	
“ “ County Tax	1,484 47	
“ “ Overlay on Taxes	1,211 52	
		35,283 22

EXPENDITURES.

Paid for Schools	8,261 53
“ incidental school expenses	1,301 25
“ supplies of Almshouse	553 25
“ poor out of the Almshouse	751 62
to Town officers	1,698 09
“ Road Commissioners for repair of highways	4,095 30
“ Do. for grading Mt. Vernon and Linden sts.	500 00
for building new street west of the depot	333 50
“ extra highway work	793 76
“ removing snow	28 62
“ land damages	665 00
“ street lamps	333 99
“ miscellaneous	347 09
“ decoration of soldiers' graves	150 00
to Trustees of Cemetery for land purchased	2,435 83
“ Do. for repairs of Cemetery	300 00
“ Trustees of Public Library	500 00
for printing	306 61
“ Selectmen's office	173 85
“ Fire Department	2,062 28
“ abatement of taxes	540 55
“ State tax	2,560 00
Amount carried forward	\$28,607 12

Amount brought forward	\$28,607 12	
Paid for County tax	1,484 47	
“ night watchman	100 00	
“ interest on Town debt	4,245 06	
“ State aid	1,744 00	
	<hr/>	36,180 65
Add for balance due the Trustees of the Cemetery, now in Treasury		850 00
		<hr/>
		37,030 65
*Deduct cash paid for land for enlargement of Cemetery, for which no assessment was made	2,435 83	
*Deduct cash paid for school purposes.	600 00	
	<hr/>	3,035 83
		<hr/>
		33,994 82
Receipts more than expenses		1,288 40
		<hr/>
		\$35,283 22

*Amounts “voted” at November meeting.

NATHAN P. PRATT,	} <i>Selectmen</i> <i>of Reading.</i>
W. J. WIGHTMAN,	
CHARLES TWEED,	

READING, April 1, 1873.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ENGINEERS
OF THE
READING FIRE DEPARTMENT.

To the Selectmen and Citizens of Reading :

In presenting our annual report we feel thankful, and would congratulate our fellow-citizens, on having escaped any serious conflagration the year just ending, notwithstanding nearly all fires seem to have assumed that proportion in neighboring towns and cities. The department has been called out to fires but six (6) times to the present time — three times in the Spring by the carelessness of persons in the employ of Mr. Oscar Foot in burning over wood land (damage to cord wood and logs burned estimated by the owner \$500) ; once, in the night, by the partial burning of Mr. Everett Parker's house, which, by the promptness of the department, was extinguished with a damage of only \$250, fully covered by insurance (supposed to have been of incendiary origin) ; once for a fire in Wakefield (the burning of the large steam mill belonging to one of our own citizens, Mr. Edward Safford, which was entirely consumed). On the ever-memorable 9th of November an alarm was given, on the receipt of the following telegraph despatch, from the Chief Engineer of the City of Boston, asking for assistance in subduing the fearful conflagration raging at that time :

"BOSTON, 9½ P. M., Nov. 9th, 1872.

"*Chief Engineer Reading Fire Department :*

"Please send us all the fire engines you can spare.

"(Signed) JOHN S. DAMRELL."

In response (by the courtesy of the B. & M. R. R.) we dispatched, by special train, our largest engine, No. 4, and the whole department, excepting a detail to use the other engine and to telegraph us immediately at the Chief's office in Boston should a fire break out at home during our absence. We were on duty in Boston until 11 o'clock the next day (Sunday), over twelve hours; and to show that our services were appreciated on that occasion, we would say that Eagle Company, No. 4, received a cash present, on New Year's Day, of \$100, and a very complimentary letter from a business firm on Kilby street, who were burned out, and received assistance in securing their safe by members of our department; and the following letter, received from the Chief Engineer of the Boston Fire Department, will require no explanation:

"FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICE, CITY HALL, }
Boston, December, 1872. }

"To Capt. Wm. H. Temple, Chief Engineer Fire Department, Reading Mass.:"

Dear Sir,—In behalf of the Board of Engineers of the Boston Fire Department, I beg to convey to the officers and members of your department, and especially to you as its Chief, our heartfelt thanks for the assistance rendered in subduing the fire in this city on the 9th and 10th of November last.

"The promptness of your department in our great emergency, and the arduous and heroic services performed by them, will ever be gratefully remembered by this department and our citizens.

"I have the honor to subscribe myself,

"Yours, most sincerely,

"JOHN S. DAMRELL,

"Chief Engineer B. F. D."

We found, upon examination of the apparatus and affairs of the department, at the commencement of the year, that it would be necessary to make several quite expensive repairs on the engines and cisterns, and also several last year's bills outstanding, to meet which the last year's Board of Engineers (doubtless anxious to keep within the sum appropriated) had thrown on to the expenses of this year; and if, in the footing up of the sums we have been necessitated to expend to keep the property in our charge in a serviceable and reliable condition, they should exceed the amount voted by the Town, we feel that we have expended the money to the best possible advantage, and that every dollar

has been a good investment. The apparatus of the department is in excellent condition, excepting the hook and ladder carriage, which needs painting, and the leading hose, of which there are but 1,000 feet, all of which has been in service three years. The Hancock Engine, No. 2, has been thoroughly repaired and newly painted, and we have made an addition to the apparatus by the building, to order, of a new hose carriage for No. 2, which is a first-class "jumper," to carry 450 feet leather hose, and the thorough workmanship and stylish appearance of which reflect much credit to the builder, Mr. John A. Blunt.

The apparatus in charge of the department, and the organizations comprising it, are as follows: A Chief and two Assistant Engineers; one hook and ladder truck, fully equipped, manned by a company of twelve men (which should be enlarged to twenty); Eagle Engine and company of sixty men (a detail from this company run a hand hose carriage, extra, the "Red Jacket," which will carry 600 feet of hose); Hancock Engine and company of thirty men (which should be enlarged); also, two small tub engines, not named. And in this connection we would recommend to the Town the building of a new engine house for this branch of the department. Their old house is barely large enough to house the engine, leaving the company out of doors, and affords no possible accommodations for drying or cleaning the hose, and it is entirely inadequate for its present use, and a disgrace to the enterprize of the neighborhood in which it is located. We would also recommend the purchase of 500 feet of hose as soon as possible, as there are but 1,000 feet with which to meet any emergency which may come upon us; and, owing to the great need of more reservoirs, the purchase of a better supply of hose becomes imperative.

The large reservoir at the Eagle Engine house has been entirely rebuilt with brick and cement, making it serviceable for its full capacity. We have charge and control of twelve reservoirs and wells, all of which were built by subscription, and have cost the Town nothing but for repairs, excepting \$132

expended this year on the one first mentioned. That citizens may know how few are within reach of an adequate supply of water, we give the locations: One reservoir on Salem st., near Manning; one well, Salem, corner Pearl; one reservoir near Baptist Church; one on Union street; one under High School house; two wells, one reservoir, on Main; one do. back of Mrs. Kingman's; one well, Washington street, corner of Ash; one do., Haven street; one do., High street; and one do., West street. It will be remembered, the appropriation voted at the last annual meeting was conditional, and not available unless parties most benefitted raised, by subscription, money enough to cover half the expense of building them. Notwithstanding this, two persons have notified us they were ready to comply with the conditions. But both locations which would benefit the two neighborhoods standing ready to do their part were in very low and springy ground, and the unusually wet season rendered it inexpedient to attempt building reservoirs in such places; and, in our judgment, it is not economy for the Town to construct wells for a supply of water, they being always unreliable, and, in a dry season, practically useless in case of fire. The experience of the Wakefield engineers in building one in a *favorable* location, which cost nearly double what it should, owing to the great trouble and expense of keeping it clear of water until it could be sunk a sufficient depth and finished, together with the above reasons, has deterred us from making the attempt.

The following is an account of the expenses of the Department:

Paid D ^l Creese, for lock and keys to engine house door	
(1869)	\$4 37
C. C. Cummings, as steward to No. 4 (1871) . . .	50 00
Sam ^l Brown, steward of hook and ladder and repairs	
(1871)	5 62
Nathan Bancroft, do., do., No. 2 (1871) . . .	25 00
Do., for work on No. 2 (1871) . . .	2 00
Wm. H. Temple, travel and expenses connected with	
the purchase of iron brakes for No. 4 (1871) . .	5 00
E. E. Smith, work on No. 2 (1871)	5 00
Amount carried forward	<u>\$96 99</u>

Amount brought forward	\$96 99	
Paid Hunneman & Co., for iron brakes and repairs on No. 4 (1871)	145 00	\$241 99
Balance of appropriation not drawn in 1871		<u>103 27</u>
Balance carried to this year's account	138 72	
Paid members of department for services to May 1,'72	1,178 00	
W. H. Temple, cash paid for hand-straps and express	2 15	
Do., for labor oiling hose " "	7 50	
C. C. Cummings, do.	9 00	
R. C. Totten, for repairs on engine	2 25	
W. Tidd & Co., for oil	23 00	
F. O. Dewey, for lantern for No. 2	2 00	
J. E. Hooper, labor on No. 4 house	3 25	
C. A. Chase, for horse drawing No. 2 Engine	3 00	
Parker & Stone, sundry goods	3 34	
N. W. Broad, stock and labor on Eagle Engine house	5 50	
S. M. Hall, rebuilding cistern	132 00	
H. A. Winship, 26 feet suction hose	97 50	
W. H. Temple, cash paid for work on Eagle Engine house	1 25	
Do., repairing fire buckets	2 00	
W. T. Kendall, teaming cap stones for cisterns	2 00	
W. H. Baker, for wheel-jack	2 00	
N. W. Broad, repairs at Eagle Engine house	3 60	
M. H. Garfield, painting No. 2 Engine	100 00	
Do. " on No. 4 Engine	5 00	
Bancroft & Temple, covering reservoir on Haven st.	17 77	
Whyte & Morse, for caps, etc., for engine	2 50	
N. W. Broad, stock and labor on Hancock and Eagle houses	12 12	
Dennis P. Babb, for drawing engine to and from Wakefield	6 00	
C. H. Lang, express bill	3 40	
H. L. Cummings, do.	1 80	
E. DeJean, 1 wrench, stove-pipe, galvanized iron, etc.	8 57	
Parker & Stone, snow-shovel and broom	1 30	
E. E. Smith, as steward of No. 2	25 00	
John A. Blunt, new hose carriage	75 00	
R. M. Boyce, coal and wood for engine houses	13 62	
G. W. Atkinson, two quarts sperm oil	1 30	
H. A. Winship, repairs on hose for No. 2 Engine	17 00	
John A. Blunt, repairs on Hancock Engine, No. 2	28 95	
Do., for work on Engine No. 4	14 62	
Do., work for cisterns	5 00	
W. L. Crowe, repairs on No. 4	2 00	
		<u>\$1,959 01</u>

Amount brought forward \$1,959 01

APPROPRIATION VOTED :

For painting Hancock Engine	100 00	
new hose carriage	100 00	
ordinary expenses of Department	1,500 00	
	<hr/>	1,700 00

Amount overdrawn \$259 01

In conclusion we would recommend the selling of the two small unused tub engines, and the house they are in, and would ask for a special appropriation for the purchase of more leading hose, and for two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to defray the ordinary and incidental expenses of the department for the year ensuing, and that one hundred dollars of which sum be expended to lessen the expense to the firemen of their annual parade.

There has been the best of feeling between the different branches of the department as now constituted, and their promptness in answer to every alarm is particularly gratifying to us and a guarantee of their efficiency when needed.

All of which is most respectfully submitted,

WM. H. TEMPLE, *Chief Engineer.*
 GEO. H. PARKER, *1st Assistant.*
 C. H. DANFORTH, *Clerk.*

Dr. JAMES A. BANCROFT, *Treasurer and Collector*, in Account with the Town of Reading. *Cr.*

To Balance in Treasury, March 1, 1872	.	.	\$8,906 51	By Paying Selectmen's orders	.	.	.	.	\$27,947 12
Cash of John Batchelder's Executors	.	.	1,000 00	" Town Debt	.	.	.	.	19,875 98
" " N. R. Pratt, Administrator of George Batchelder's Estate	.	.	225 00	" Interest	.	.	.	.	4,245 06
State Aid, 1871	.	.	1,500 00	" State Tax	.	.	.	.	2,560 00
Corporation Tax	.	.	597 63	" County Tax	.	.	.	.	1,484 47
School Fund	.	.	212 25	" Insurance in Quiney office	.	.	.	.	43 75
Hired Money	.	.	16,989 82	" " on Piano in High School	.	.	.	.	7 00
Interest	.	.	108 99	" Board of Frank Nichols at State Reform School	.	.	.	.	26 00
Interest on Taxes	.	.	274 27	" Board of Daniel Sullivan at State Reform School	.	.	.	.	10 43
Dog License	.	.	80 59						
School Books	.	.	3 50						
Tax after being abated	.	.	1 19						
Tax list for collection	.	.	32,505 99						
			<u>\$62,405 74</u>						

Balance in Treasury of—									
Uncollected Taxes for 1870	.	.	.	11 72					
" " " 1871	.	.	.	932 94					
" " " 1872	.	.	.	4,264 73					
S. Harneden's Note	.	.	.	425 00					
Cash	.	.	.	571 54					
				<u>6,205 93</u>					
									<u>\$62,405 74</u>

JAMES A. BANCROFT,
Treasurer and Collector.

READING, March 1, 1873.

AUDITORS' REPORT,

FOR YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1873.

LIABILITIES.

The Town owes notes amounting to	\$63,413 84	
Interest computed to March 1, 1873	1,154 71	
	<u> </u>	64,568 55
Amount due Fire Department estimated at	1,000 00	
Miscellaneous debts	500 00	
	<u> </u>	1,500 00
		<u>66,068 55</u>

AVAILABLE ASSETS.

S. Harnden's note, balance	425 00	
Interest on same	15 51	
Balance due from estate George Batchelder	546 43	
Unpaid taxes	5,209 39	
Cash in hands of Treasurer	571 54	
	<u> </u>	6,767 87
Net amount of Town debt		<u>59,300 68</u>

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY.

Town farm, valued at	4,000 00	
Personal property at Almshouse	2,570 29	
	<u> </u>	6,570 29
Cemetery, land and lots.	2,635 83	
Hearse, estimated worth	200 00	
Hearse house	75 00	
	<u> </u>	2,910 83
Eagle fire engine and hose carriage.	1,000 00	
“ “ house and cistern	500 00	
Hancock fire engine and hose carriage	500 00	
“ “ house	150 00	
Washington fire engine	200 00	
“ “ house	40 00	
Union fire engine	50 00	
Hook and ladder carriage, etc.	400 00	
“ “ house	80 00	
Furniture in engine houses	50 00	
	<u> </u>	2,970 00
Amount caried forward		<u>\$12,451 12</u>

Amount brought forward		\$12,451 12
Iron safe in Selectmens' office	50 00	
Furniture in " "	100 00	
		150 00
School houses and furniture	32,000 00	
Public Library and furniture	2,300 00	
Piano in High School, and philosophical apparatus	500 00	
		34,800 00
Amt. due from State for aid furnished soldiers	3,260 17	
		3,260 17
		<u>\$50,661 29</u>

We have examined the accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer for the year ending February 28, 1873, and find the same correct and satisfactorily vouched.

WM. WALLACE DAVIS,
ANDREW HOWES,
F. H. KNIGHT.

READING, Feb. 28, 1873.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN READING IN 1872.

Date.	Names.	Sex.	Names of Parents.	Occupation of Father.
Ap. 1, '71.	Timothy Noone,	M.	Michael and Mary,	Cabinet maker.
Dec. 16, "	E. G. Richardson,	F.	Franklin E. and Fannie M.	Baggage master.
" 25, "	Nellie G. Parker,	F.	Warren and Mary E.	Carpenter.
Jan. 2,	Baker,	M.	Frank P. and ———,	"
" 8,	Adaline Josephine Griggs,	F.	James H. and Mary E.	Turner.
" 12,	James McGriggin,	M.	John J. and Annie,	Cabinet maker.
" 14,	Ada E. Potter,	F.	Hanson B. and Lizzie E.	Telegraph line man.
" 14,	Gracie Maria Dean,	"	George W. and Maria F.	Carpenter.
" 28,	William Henry Manning,	M.	Ezra K. and Mary L.	Farmer.
Feb. 9,	Willie Wallace Atkinson,	"	George W. and Eliza A.	Merchant.
March 4,	Flora Isabell McQuesten,	F.	Evarts and Mary E.	"
" 5,	Kate Frances O'Brien,	"	James and Mary A.	Mechanic.
" 16,	Gertrude S. Bancroft,	"	Albert J. and Sarah J.	Carpenter.
" 22,	Agatha LaClair,	"	William and Mary H.	Mechanic.
" 24,	Clara Flint Gould,	"	Mark F. and Alma F.	Butcher.
" 26,	Fred Bertram Cutter,	M.	William A. and Clara E.	Clerk.
April 1,	Harrie Felix Doucette,	"	Felix and Mary,	Carpenter.
" 6,	Lizzie Bell Blake,	F.	George M. and Henrietta S.	"
" 10,	Grace Florence Broad,	"	Nathaniel W. and Mary E.	"
" 22,	Olive Lucretia Kelley,	"	Charles W. and Emma J.	Shoe cutter.
May 7,	Eddie W. Pierce,	M.	George W. and Clara A.	Butcher.
" 4,	Mary Emma Lambert,	F.	Louis N. and Adele K.	Varnisher.
" 10,	Lucy Alice Turner,	"	Lucius and Mary F.	Merchant.
" 14,	Arthur James Norris,	M.	James T. and Katie V.	"
" 26,	Albert Greeley Perkins,	"	Charles W. and Amanda M.	Shoe manufacturer.
June 5,	Faulkner,	"	Samuel and Lydia,	"
" 10,	Hattie May Corkins,	F.	Charles R. and Philinda A.	Insurance agent.
" 13,	Mabel Frances Bancroft,	"	Francis J. and Harriet A.	Musician.
" 14,	Wilfred Rogers Brown,	M.	Francis F. and Emma M.	Physician.
" 14,	Henry Wilson Jones,	"	Eliab C. and Clara M.	Carpenter.
" 14,	Hunt,	"	James W. and Ada A.	Clerk.
July 16,	Edith Bancroft Parker,	F.	Milton D. and Melvina,	Farmer.
" 20,	Carrie Rebecca Eames,	"	Emery B. and Emma,	Blacksmith.
" 27,	Healey,	M.	James and ———,	"
" 29,	William R. Page, Jr.	"	William R. and Jennie,	Merchant.
" 29,	Chester Kidder Wakefield,	"	Charles and Mary A.	Farmer.
Aug. 14,	John Chase Nowell,	"	Charles H. and Anna M.	Clerk.
" 21,	Hiram Freddie Randall,	"	Hiram G. and Eliza,	Trader.
" 26,	Elise Josephine Jeffrey,	F.	William B. and Mary P.	Cabinet maker.
Sept. 1,	Henry Hermance Pease,	M.	William S. and Julia M.	Agent.
" 1,	Briggs,	F.	T. Tolman and Hepzibah S.	Merchant.
" 1,	H. Orville Woods Wilder,	M.	Orville N. and Mary E.	Oar maker.
" 5,	Wallace Fairfield Hodgdon,	"	Charles G. and Augusta H.	Photographer.
" 6,	John Mellen Harnden,	"	Frederick and Mary C.	Mechanic.
" 15,	Adelaide Issabelle Garfield,	F.	Lyman M. and Maria L.	Painter.
" 18,	Thomas W. Brown,	M.	Frank A. and Sarah F.	Carpenter.
" 21,	Hattie Frances Ellingwood,	F.	John S. and Elmira W.	"
" 22,	Mattie Bunker,	"	William B. and Olive R.	Laborer.
Oct. 2,	Andrew Murray,	M.	Dennis and Mary,	"
" 4,	Catherine Noone,	F.	Michael and Mary,	Cabinet maker.
" 8,	Hattie Kimball Clement,	"	William and Anna M.	Shoe cutter.
" 9,	Albin Kendall Parker,	M.	Edward F. and Anna F.	Cabinet maker.
" 12,	Gertrude Chandler Eaton,	F.	Walter and Anna Bell,	Mechanic.
" 15,	Gracie Delia Sweetser,	"	Kirk and Delia E.	Farmer.
" 17,	Howard Tisdale Manley,	M.	Henry and Susan E.	Civil engineer.
" 18,	Alice Appleton Smith,	F.	Frank M. and Ann L.	Salesman.
" 19,	Carrie Etta Maynard,	"	William and Caroline,	Livery stable.
" 25,	George E. Symmes,	M.	Frank H. and Sarah J.	Organ builder.
" 28,	Lewis,	"	John B., Jr. and Mary U.	Merchant.
Nov. 6,	Alida Christenia Zappy,	F.	John C. and Mary E.	Cabinet maker.
" 13,	Jennie Lane Batchelder,	"	George W. and Lydia,	Farmer.
" 24,	Roger T. Atkinson,	M.	Ira and Adaline,	Merchant.
Dec. 6,	Robert Forbes,	"	Michael and Mary,	Laborer.
" 21,	Lizzie M. Hunter,	F.	William A. and Lizzie A.	Mechanic.
" 22,	Wilhelmina Holden,	"	William J. and Harriet A.	Shoe manufacturer.
" 27,	Delia Converse,	"	Albert F. and Martha,	Mechanic.

Number of Births Registered, - - - 63

" Males, - - - 30

" Females, - - - 33

NATIVITY OF PARENTS.

	Father.	Mother.
United States,	53	54
Foreign,	10	9

DEATHS REGISTERED IN READING IN 1872.

Date.	Names.	Age.			Names of Parents or Husband.	Cause.
		Y.	M.	D.		
Jan. 8,	Clinton B. Emerson,	58	5	11	David and Esther,	Enlarged postate gland
" 24,	Ebenezer T. Coggin,	64	10	12	James and Mary,	Cancer of stomach.
Feb. 4,	Lorenzo Parker,	77	3	11	Amos and Betsey,	Cancer.
" 20,	Harriet M. Valentine,	59	10		Samuel and Lydia (Baker),	Consumption.
March	*Josie R. Dole,	3	6		John and Sarah,	Croup.
" 15,	Margaret M. Barrows,	54	9	28	William and Mary McLellan,	Tumor in brain.
" 22,	Agatha La Clair,				8 hrs.] William and Mary H.	
April 5,	*Joab Buck,	72	9	11	Ephraim and Dorcas,	Paralysis.
" 5,	Aaron Weston,	71	6	19	Ephraim and Molly,	
" 18,	Grace Whittier,	1	2	4	David J. and Ann J.	Inflammation stomach.
" 19,	*Loring Burnham,	70	10	14		Heart disease.
May 1,	Ann W. Stone,	63			Joseph and Abigail Watson,	
" 1,	Thomas S. Hartshorn,	66			Jeremiah and Margaret,	Apoplexy.
" 8,	Mary D. Coggin,	91	5	12	Jonathan and Mary Dix,	Old age.
" 25,	Daniel Foss,	58		2	Benjamin and Mercy,	Apoplexy.
July 1,	Hannah Parker,	47	7		David and Sarah Batchelder,	Spinal disease, ulcers.
" 4,	William H. Johnson,	35			Henry and Hannah S.	Consumption.
" 7,	Samuel W. Brooks,	90	10	14	Zachariah and Susannah,	Old age.
" 9,	Parker Nichols,	45	5		Amos and Mercy,	Paralysis.
" 11,	Thomas Appleton,	86	6	17	William and Hannah,	Old age.
" 13,	Albert G. Perkins,		1	17	Charles W. and Amanda M.	Marasmus.
" 14,	Bridget A. Donnegan,	1	1	18	Morris and Bridget,	Diarrhoea.
" 23,	*Mary Cochrane,	82	1	24	John and Phebe Emerson,	Cholera morbus.
" 30,	*Emily W. Wilkins,	19	5		George A. and Abbie A.	Dropsy on brain.
Aug. 6,	Grace R. Eames,		17		Emery B. and Emma,	Marasmus.
" 12,	Jonathan B. Eames,	46	11	11	Jonathan and Sarah T.	Cancer.
" 16,	*Mary E. Gray,	31			John Gray,	Exhaustion, bleeding.
" 22,	Donald Stewart,	22	6		Duncan and Mary,	Consumption.
Sept. 2,	Thomas W. Brown,			3	Frank and Sarah,	
" 2,	Sarah C. Weston,	52	3	25	David F. Weston,	Typhoid fever.
" 3,	Frank B. Haag,		5	19	Charles and Mary A.	Accidental.
" 13,	May J. Carley,	8		5	John and Mary,	Diphtheria.
" 13,	Albert Louis Doucette,	1	1		John and Fanny,	
" 21,	Sarah Holt,	65		21	Cleveland B. Holt,	Tumor in abdomen.
" 22,	*Arthur Cleaves,			24	John A. and Ellen,	
Oct. 21,	Gertrude S. Bancroft,		7	5	Albert J. and Sarah J.	Purpura.
" 30,	*Freddie Kendall,	10	10	8	George W. and Myra,	Fever.
" 31,	Freeman H. Gray,	9	2	22	Reuben F. and Hannah,	Consumption.
Nov. 26,	Joseph B. Wilbur,	49	1	26	Samuel and Ellen,	Bright's disease.
Dec. 1,	Sarah Spokesfield,	87	1		Joseph Spokesfield,	Old age.
" 4,	Frank W. Parker,	1	11	22	Edward and Lucy W.	Cerebral meningitis.
" 4,	Birdie Hillier,		5	27	Benjamin and Emer L.	" "
" 10,	Nancy Thresher,	70	6		William and Charity Gray,	Heart disease.
" 15,	William H. Beard,	55	2	13	Moody and Betsey,	Diabetes.
" 16,	*Maud O. Jaquith,	6	2		George W. and Ann M.	Scarlet fever.
" 26,	Timothy Murphy,	26			Jack and Joanna,	Confluent small-pox.

*Not residents of Reading, but brought into town for interment.

Whole number of Deaths in Reading in 1872, - 37

Males, - - - - 21

Females, - - - - 16

NATIVITY.

United States, - - - 34

Foreign, - - - - 3

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN READING IN 1872.

Date.	Name of Groom and Bride.	Age.	Occupation of Groom.	Residence.	Place of Birth.	Names of Parents.	By whom Married.
Jan. 1,	Frank H. Symmes, Sarah J. Hopkins,	21 24	Organ builder,	Boston,	West Medford,	Alfred and Almira,	Rev. John N. Short.
" 18,	John B. Lewis, Jr., Mary U. Hayes,	30 28	Merchant,	"	Wilmington,	Joseph B. and Theresia,	Rev. William H. Wilcox.
Feb. 1,	Otis L. Thurlow, Sarah M. Gowing,	27 21	Carpenter,	Wakefield,	Charlestown,	William and Temperance,	Rev. William A. Thompson.
" 17,	Albert F. Emerson, Mary A. Nichols,	24 18	Butcher,	Reading,	West Newbury,	Stephen C. and Lois T.	Rev. William H. Wilcox.
" 23,	Charles N. Nichols, Etta D. Case,	24 23	Clerk,	"	Danvers,	Ezra and Avis,	Rev. M. B. Chapman.
March 7,	Everett C. Parker, Mary L. Bowers,	30 31	Cabinet maker,	"	"	Clinton B. and Louisa D.	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
" 13,	William D. Friend, Emma A. Beard,	21 22	Farmer,	Boston, Stoddard, N. H.	Reading, Roxbury,	David and Mary,	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
" 21,	John W. Arntzen, Christena Zapp,	35 27	Cabinet maker,	Boston,	Reading,	Cephas and Elizabeth,	Rev. William H. Wilcox.
" 21,	Cyrus H. Menzies, Abby M. Nelson,	28 24	Farmer,	Northboro',	Sterling,	Sherman H. and Eliza,	Rev. F. L. Mosmer.
" 23,	Phineas H. Jacquith, Lucy A. S. Conant,	46 26	Farmer,	Reading,	Reading, N. H.	Harrison and Mary,	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
" 27,	George M. Blake, Henrietta S. Hart,	26 20	Carpenter,	Boston,	Stonham,	Nathaniel and Sarah D.	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
April 3,	Sidney L. Smith, Kate Butler,	34 32	Naval officer,	Reading,	Wakefield,	William H. and Maria M.	Rev. William H. Wilcox.
" 9,	William H. Nevers, Hattie A. Beers,	32 31	Jeweller,	Cornish, Me.	"	Bernard and Eliza,	Rev. F. L. Mosmer.
" 11,	Frank A. Johnson, Mary L. Jones,	32 29	Moulder,	Reading,	Grafton, N. H.	John C. and Alida,	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
" 14,	Samuel Nichols, Roxey Balch,	41 52	Pedler,	Quincy,	Stonham,	Cyrus and Mary S.	Rev. J. Edwards Bell.
" 23,	William L. Crowe, Sophia Wright,	39 35	Cabinet maker,	Stonham,	Sweden, Me.	James and Anne G.	Rev. William A. Thompson.
May 4,	Joseph E. Jennings, Elizabeth Sias,	23 18	Mechanic,	Reading,	No. Reading,	John and Elmira,	Rev. William Barrows.
" 24,	James Johnson, Famelia Walton,	39 39	Cordwainer,	Orange,	Rockport,	Samuel H. and Sally,	Silas Dean, J. P.
" 27,	Benjamin F. McAllister, Mary Jane Grant,	25 19	Chemist,	Ilaverhill,	Bangor, Me.	James and Hannah S.	Rev. S. P. Briggs.
June 4,	John Edward James, Carrie M. Faulkner,	32 23	Baker,	Andover,	Stoddard, N. H.	Samuel and Deborah,	Rev. E. B. Fairchild.
" 19,	William S. Richardson, Frances A. Burrill,	25 27	Clerk,	Wakefield,	New Boston, N. H.	Jonathan Crowe,	Rev. John N. Short.
				Reading,	Nova Scotia,	Thomas and Mary,	Rev. William H. Wilcox.
				"	"	George W. and Mary E.	Rev. Clifton Fletcher.
				"	Epping, N. H.	John Sias,	Rev. C. Chapman.
				"	Canada East,	James and Rachel,	Rev. E. B. Fairchild.
				"	Ireland,	Leonard and Nauey, A.	
				"	Wakfield,	Benjamin and Mary A.	
				"	Reading,	John and Eliza,	
				"	Stonham,	Samuel and Lydia,	
				"	England,	Thomas and Lydia F.	
				"	Salem, N. H.	John and Nancy D.	
				"	Reading,		
				"	Boston,		

June 25,	Albert P. Danton,	36	Merchant,	Reading,	Reading,	Daniel and Mary,	Rev. William H. Willcox.
" 26,	Elizabeth R. Adden,	29	Piano-forte maker,	East Cambridge,	Perry, Me.	John and Elizabeth F.	Rev. H. C. Towuley.
July 2,	John G. Berry,	25	Shoemaker,	Reading,	Nova Scotia,	William B. and Mary A.	Rev. William A. Thompson.
" 11,	Sarah L. Blood,	26	Shoemaker,	Lynnfield,	Lynnfield,	Amariah and Elizabeth A.	Rev. William H. Willcox.
Aug. 21,	Thomas W. Nelson,	30	Furner,	North Reading,	"	John H. and Hannah,	Rev. John N. Short.
" 28,	Sarah A. Stone,	39	Shoemaker,	Reading,	England,	David and Sally E.	Rev. William H. Willcox.
" 31,	Dennis Barchelder,	31	Shoemaker,	Hudson City, N. J.	Boston,	John L. and Hannah,	Rev. A. S. Gardner.
Sept. 17,	George W. Hunt,	35	Carpenter,	Lowell,	Kittery, Me.	David H. and Emily H.	Rev. William H. Willcox.
" 17,	Mary A. Buchanan,	25	Organ builder,	Kittery, Me.	Wells, Me.	Arthur and Maria,	Rev. William H. Willcox.
" 23,	Theodore H. Burnham,	21	Organ tuner,	Reading,	Windham, N. H.	Gustavus and Ann,	Rev. A. Prince.
" 26,	Annie J. Smith,	22	Fireman,	"	North Reading,	William and Mary E.	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
Oct. 1,	Solomon S. Williams,	22	Shoe manufacturer,	Stoughton,	Hampden, Me.	Robert B. and Mary T.	Rev. William A. Thompson.
" 5,	Nellie M. Clark,	44	Merchant,	Woburn,	Ossipee, N. H.	William and Mary E. G.	Rev. William Barrows.
" 8,	William H. Badger,	48	Mechanic,	Reading,	Reading,	Isaac and Elizabeth,	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
" 9,	Carrie A. Jackson,	31	Engraver,	Stoughton,	Chelsea,	Epitaph and Louisa,	Rev. William A. Thompson.
Nov. 2,	Osgood Eaton,	28	Mechanic,	Lisbon, N. H.	Reading,	F. B. and Eliza,	Rev. William Barrows.
" 4,	Eliza A. Hinckley,	23	Butcher,	Wakefield,	Andover,	George W. and Mary,	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
" 6,	George E. Hyde,	20	Mason,	Wakefield,	Wakefield,	William I. and Susan E.	Rev. A. J. Hovey.
" 9,	Clorizette A. Follansbee,	18	Organ pipe maker,	Wakefield,	Woburn,	Robert and Jane,	Rev. Charles R. Bliss.
" 11,	George W. Merrill,	21	Shoemaker,	Wakefield,	Reading,	William and Mary E.	Rev. William A. Thompson.
" 13,	Lucy L. Bennett,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Ezekiel and Louisa,	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
" 15,	Robert Bowser,	20	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Albina H. and Martha E.	Rev. E. B. Fairchild.
" 17,	Mary Frances Badger,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	William A. and Harriet C.	Rev. A. J. Hovey.
" 19,	Charles H. Taylor, 2d,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	John A. and Harriet C.	Rev. Charles R. Bliss.
" 21,	Susan M. Elliott,	20	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Moses and Rebecca,	Rev. William A. Thompson.
" 23,	Francis E. Brooks,	17	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Artemus and Mary A.	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
" 25,	Clara L. Robinson,	25	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Samuel and Fanny,	Rev. A. J. Hovey.
" 27,	Joshua Mears,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Elizur W. and Olive C.	Rev. Charles R. Bliss.
" 29,	Abira Simmonds,	22	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Amariah and Elizabeth A.	Rev. William A. Thompson.
" 31,	David W. Pratt,	20	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Joseph and Caria,	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
" 33,	Ara A. Russell,	20	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Adam and Sarah,	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
" 35,	Joseph E. Hooper,	20	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	William and Elizabeth,	Rev. G. R. Leavitt.
" 37,	Amie C. Blood,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Sylvanus and Mary,	Rev. E. B. Fairchild.
" 39,	John P. Warren,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	George and Harriet M.	Rev. A. S. Gardner.
" 41,	Clara J. Hetter,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Simon J. and Caroline H.	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
" 43,	Charles Henry Penney,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Amasa and Mary,	Rev. John N. Short.
" 45,	Sarah Louisa Blanchard,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Cyrenus C. and Rebecca N.	Rev. John N. Short.
" 47,	Arthur S. Richardson,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Jacob and Abigail,	Rev. John N. Short.
" 49,	Carrie H. Eaton,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	J. Baxter and Caroline,	Rev. John N. Short.
" 51,	Albert A. Hartwell,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	William R. and Susan W.	Rev. John N. Short.
" 53,	Helen F. Cummings,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Benjamin and Mary,	Rev. John N. Short.
" 55,	Oren X. Jones,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	James S. and Ann Maria,	Rev. John N. Short.
" 57,	Caroline Eames,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,	Varum S. and Sarah M.	Rev. John N. Short.
" 59,	Charles T. Pratt,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,		
" 61,	Nancy E. Hewes,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,		
" 63,	William H. Leathe,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,		
" 65,	Alma E. Penley,	23	Mechanic,	Wakefield,	Reading,		

Date.	Name of Groom and Bride.	Age.	Occupation of Groom.	Residence.	Place of Birth.	Names of Parents.	By whom Married.
Dec. 5,	Gilman A. Coggin,	57	Shoe dealer,	Reading,	Reading,	James and Mary D.	Rev. George W. Briggs,
" 5,	Caroline A. Gordon,	47		Salem,	Salem,	Rufus L. and Sarah F.	Rev. William Barrows,
" 8,	John M. L. Esmen,	28	Carpenter,	Reading,	P. E. Island,	David and Christina,	
" 10,	Belle Galbraith,	25		"	Canada East,	James and ———,	Rev. William Barrows,
" 23,	Robert Hazlitt,	23	Stone cutter,	Cambridge,	Ireland,	John and Martha,	
" 29,	Sarah Gibson,	29		"	"	Joseph and Elizabeth,	
" 21,	Frank W. B. Pratt,	21	Clerk,	Reading,	Reading,	Daniel F. and Angelina B.	Rev. William H. Wilcox,
" 25,	Sarah Abbie Weston,	20		"	"	Franklin and Hannah C.	

Whole number of Marriages Registered 1872,

49

NATIVITY OF PERSONS MARRIED.

United States,
Foreign,

Males, Females,
41 42
8 6

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE.

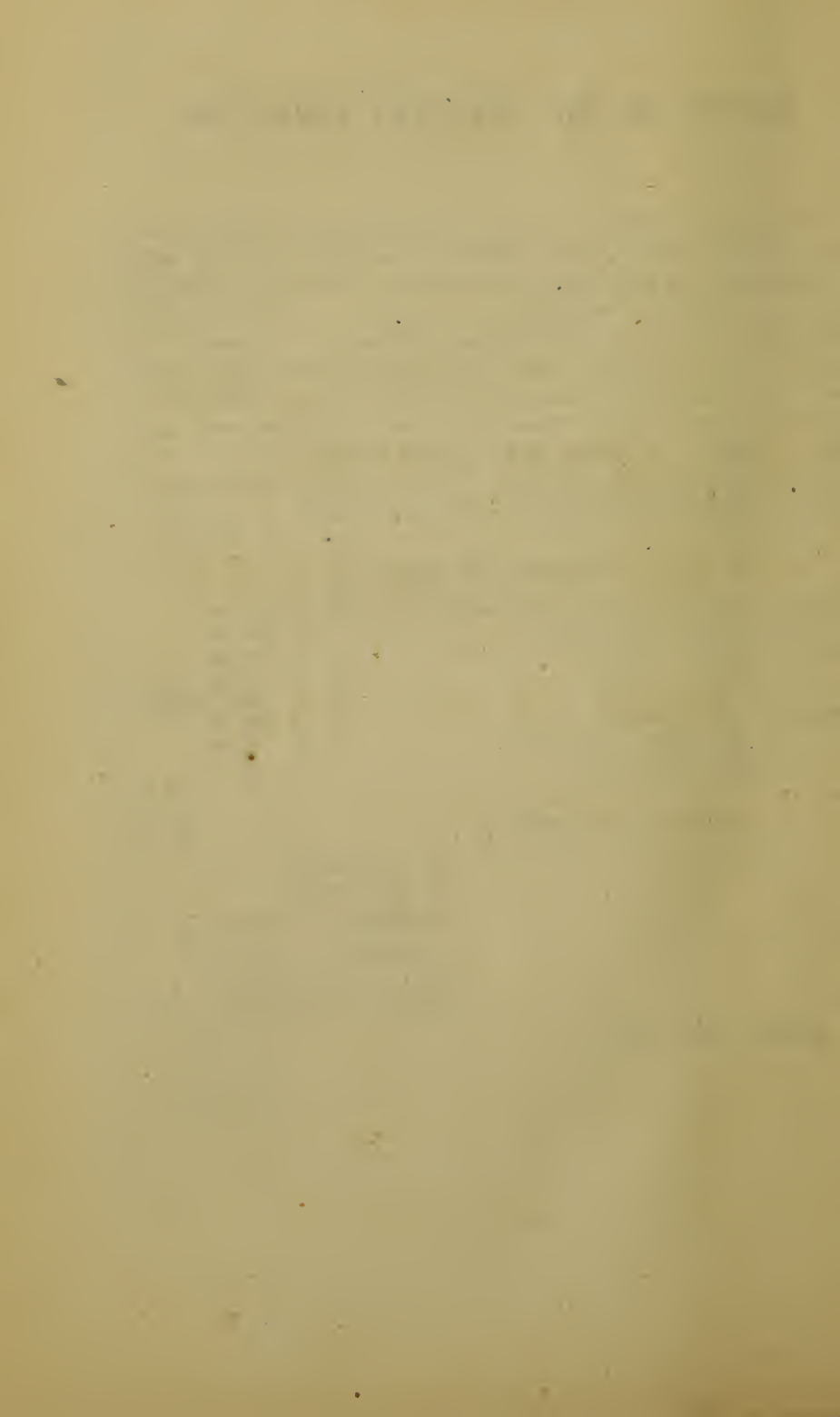
In accordance with the vote of the Town at the meeting in November last, the Committee have purchased about three and a half acres of land adjoining the Cemetery, at an expense of \$2,435.83. This will soon be required for burial purposes. The other expenditures of the Committee are shown in the annexed statement. We have not expended the full amount of the appropriation made at the annual meeting. The wall on Main street has not yet been completed, as it was found that it could be done better and more economically upon the completion of certain improvements, which have been commenced, upon the street adjoining. We hope that during the coming summer, both the street and the wall will be finished.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Balance in hands of Committee at commencement of year	\$72 94	
Drawn from Town appropriation	300 00	
Received from sale of lots	73 00	
“ “ “ wood	18 00	
	<u> </u>	\$463 94
Paid for labor in Cemetery	434 70	
improvement of Locust Hill	64 00	
gates on Main street	41 22	
	<u> </u>	539 92
Amount due the Committee		<u> </u> \$75 93

F. O. DEWEX,
F. H. KNIGHT,
THOMAS B. PRATT,
GILMAN C. GLEASON,
WILLIAM PROCTOR,
SOLON BANCROFT.

READING, March, 1873.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF THE
TOWN OF READING
FOR 1872-73.

REPORT.

Pursuant to custom, we submit to the Town our Annual Report :

We have nothing particularly new or startling to report for the past year. The interest in the Library is well kept up, and we are pleased to record that the demand for the more solid reading matter has materially increased, while, as a consequence, the call for works of fiction diminishes. We have purchased, the past year, one hundred and ninety-six volumes. Of these, a considerable portion was of what are termed popular works, or light reading. This we did, as there had been a call for such that we were previously unable to supply. We are now having a call for more works of a substantial nature, and the coming year propose to devote more attention to Travels, Historical works, and works devoted to the Fine Arts ; at the same time, it will be necessary to add such new works of fiction and juveniles as will keep our Library well assorted, that all classes of readers may have an opportunity of gratifying their peculiar tastes.

It will be seen, by reference to the Librarian's Report, herewith appended, that we still have to devote a large share of our appropriation to binding ; probably we shall have to do more the coming than the past year in that direction. We were much pleased with the action of the Town, last season, in granting for the use of the Library the money received for dog licenses, although, from the long string of tape it has to traverse, it does not reach us till the close of the year. We hope

the Town will appropriate it to our use the coming year, and, in addition, think we shall not be considered unreasonable in asking for our usual appropriation of five hundred dollars.

We are happy to credit our young men with a great improvement in deportment about the Library Rooms, the past year, there not having been a case of suspension for disorderly conduct, nor even a complaint entered by the Librarian, for any breach of etiquette about the building. As our number of books increase, we shall be obliged to provide more shelf-room, and the size of our Library-room, we are sorry to say, is none too large; still we can so economize our room as to be able to use it a short time longer. But, in this connection, we have rumors that the High School is very much needing more room for laboratory and recitation purposes; and we submit whether it may not be for the interest of the Town to provide us, by lease or otherwise, more commodious quarters, and devote the whole of the building to School purposes.

It will be noticed, from the Librarian's Report, that there is quite a falling-off in our list of donations. We wish, particularly, to call the attention of our citizens to this, as there are, no doubt, many who merely need to be reminded that donations are acceptable, and are able and willing to respond.

Our thanks are due to those who sent us in books the past year, to those publishers who have furnished us their publications, and to the Libraries, etc., who have sent us their reports and catalogues, and to all who in any way have added to the interest and usefulness of the Library. To our worthy Librarian, Miss M. H. Appleton, who has so faithfully performed all the perplexing duties of her office, from the establishment of the Library, we take occasion to tender our special acknowledgments.

It will be the duty of the Town, at the approaching Town

Meeting, to choose two Trustees to fill vacancies caused by the expiration of the terms of Hiram Barrus and William Proctor.

Soliciting the continued interest of the people of the Town in the Reading Public Library, we are,

Respectfully,

EDWARD APPLETON,	}	<i>Trustees.</i>
F. O. DEWEY,		
STEPHEN FOSTER,		
F. H. KNIGHT,		
HIRAM BARRUS,		
WILLIAM PROCTOR,		

E. APPLETON, *President.*

F. H. KNIGHT, *Secretary.*

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

FEBRUARY 22ND, 1873.

INCREASE.

Number of Volumes, per Accession Catalogue, Feb. 20, 1872
 (duplicates, 401), 2,692

DONATIONS SINCE, IN ORDER OF DATE.

	VOLS.
E. Appleton	4
State of Massachusetts	6
Little, Brown & Co.	1
Hon. N. P. Banks	4
H. Barrus	5
T. Appleton, 2nd	1
S. L. Dolson	2
Mrs. A. Hunten	2
Anna E. Appleton	1
Holton Library of Brighton	1
G. A. Soulé	1
Fred. E. Brown	2
7th-Day Adventist Tract Society	4
Mercantile Library of New York	1
Ch. Reiche & Co.	1
Total donations (duplicates, 1)	36
Purchased	196
Total increase	232

Number of volumes, per Accession Catalogue,
 Feb. 22, 1873, 2,924

DECREASE.

Worn out, at examination of 1872	7
“ “ 1871	8
Duplicates exchanged	25
Burned at the Morse fire	2
Not returned, 1870	1
“ “ 1871	2
* Total decrease	45

(Duplicates, 25.)

* The works “worn out” are mostly “Oliver Optics” and other Juveniles.

Actual number in Library	2,879
Duplicates	377
	<hr/>
Actual number in circulation	2,502

CIRCULATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING July 6, 1872.

Cards issued	1,110
Books taken out	13,210
Fiction	7,616
Juveniles	3,057
Retained at examination	7

All of which were subsequently returned.

There have been no suspensions for disorderly conduct, and the general order at the Library-room has been much better than last year.

The circulation of 1871-2 shows a decrease of 1,176 volumes from that of 1870-1; but while in 1870-1, Fiction and Juveniles amounted to 12,563 volumes, and *all other* reading to only 1,823 volumes, in 1871-2 there were but 10,673 volumes of Fiction and Juveniles taken out, to 2,537 of other reading; so I think we are gaining in quality, if not in quantity, of reading-matter circulated.

One hundred and twelve volumes have been rebound since last year's Report; probably 125 to 150 more will need binding at the next examination.

Besides the donations above recorded, we have received files of the "Reading Chronicle," Report and Bulletins of the Boston Public Library, Reports of the Libraries of Charlestown, Medford, Wakefield, Woburn, Quincy, Holton Library of Brighton, Manchester, N. H., and Mercantile Library of New York. Miss Mabel J. Barden has given us three numbers of the "Chronicle," called for in last Report.

We now need, to complete sets:

Reading Chronicle, Vol. I., Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 35, 51.

" " " II., No. 16.

Board of Education Reports, Nos. 1, 9.

Agriculture of Massachusetts, 1836, 1842-52, 1854, 1857.

Patent Office Reports, Agricultural, 1862, 1864, 1869.

" " " Mechanical, 1854-66, 1868, 1871.

Still missing from the Franklin Library:

Galt's Life of Byron.

Letters on Demonology and Witchcraft.

Lights and Shadows of European History.

Prairie Land.

Five Years in South Africa, 2 vols.

Footprints of the Creator.

A Summer in Scotland.

The Red Rover.

Jack Tier.

Wyandotte.

The Living Age for 1857.

Missing from Reading Agricultural Library: Mills's Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Gardener's Companion.

Missing from the Town Library: Winthrop's History of New England, 1630-49, vol. 2.

We have subscribed for the "Literary World" and the "Scientific American," for the current year.

If we buy as many books this year as last, it will fill our shelves completely. The Juvenile case is now full; the Fiction cases full all but two shelves; so it will be best, I think, to buy rather more solid literature this time, to fill the other cases in proportion. Perhaps some *entertaining* Historical Memoirs, and some more works on the Fine Arts, especially illustrated ones, would be most popular among our patrons.

M. H. APPLETON,

Librarian.

Dy.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Cr.

1872.	March 1	Balance in hands of Treasurer	\$5.86	1872.	4	Paid H. G. Terry for binding	\$69.35
March 15	Received from J. A. Bancroft, Town Treas., acc. Appropriation	200.00	June	13	" E. Appleton, books and magazines	9.60	
Nov. 5	" " " " " Balance.	300.00	Aug.	22	" Aaron R. Gay & Co., stationery	1.90	
1873.			"	22	" M. H. Appleton, balance last year's salary	15.00	
March 15	" " Librarian, balance in hands last year	3.77	Nov.	2-	" Do., extra work, cleaning, arranging and examining Library	21.00	
	" " " " " for catalogues sold	5.50	8	" Cash for book	2.00		
	" " " " " for old paper sold	.08		" W. H. Piper & Co. for books	276.13		
	" " " " " for one lamp sold	1.50	1873.				
	" " " " " for fines collected	74.27	Jan. 11	" H. G. Terry for binding	47.10		
	Balance due Treasurer	5.71	Feb. 12	" Manuf. Ins. Co. for insurance	35.00		
			March 9	" E. Appleton, for Scientific American	3.00		
		\$596.95	13	" Aaron R. Gay & Co. for stationery	24.50		
			15	" M. H. Appleton, Librarian, salary, Feb. 17 to July 6, '72	35.00		
			"	" Do., salary, Aug. 7, '72, to Feb. 22, '73	50.75		
			15	" Do., extra work	1.50		
			"	" Do., express, \$1.20; postage, \$0.60	1.80		
			15	" Do., subscription Literary World	1.00		
			"	" Do., extra papers, to fill sets	0.20		
			15	" Do., ink, \$0.40; cluiter, \$0.50	0.90		
			"	" Do., corkscrew (for opening mullage and ink bottles).	0.25		
			15	" Balance of fines in hands of Librarian	0.97		
					\$59.95		

There is in the hands of Town Treasurer \$80.59, received from dog licenses, which we expect soon to receive, as per appropriation of the Town.

READING, March 15, 1873.

F. H. KNIGHT,
Treasurer Reading Public Library.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF READING
FOR 1872-73.

REPORT.

At the commencement of the present school year the schools, almost without exception, were found in a gratifying condition. To be sure some surpassed others, but by close attention to the needs of each case, the adaptability of teachers to the wants of those under their charge and cognizance of what must be done, we have been able to close the year without, at the present time, a single complaint existing. Teachers have fully co-operated with the Committee, and while changes have been made during the year, the outgoing teachers have left their work with the best wishes of all to follow them, and with the satisfaction of conscientious discharge of duties. A teacher often finds herself in the wrong school, that is, a person might succeed in one locality and utterly fail in another, so that changes are imperative.

An attempt was made, early in the year, to bring teachers and committee together at stated times; but after a series of meetings, which, we think, were not without profit to all concerned, the undertaking was abandoned, for the reason that those who most needed the benefit of such a course were the very ones who neglected the meetings. A not infrequent proceeding. Quite a number of the teachers were prompt in attendance, and faithful in their endeavors to help themselves, and, while doing so assist others.

The example afforded us by the Committee last year, of giving individual reports of the schools, has been generally commended, not only at home, but by the State Board of Education, and we have followed in the path so well laid out for us.

LOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL.

MISS RUTH L. PRATT, TEACHER.

This school has had the advantage of one of the most conscientious primary teachers in the State,—Miss Mary Shankland. Ill health, however, caused her resignation; and good fortune gave us Miss Pratt, who has made a model school of the Walnut Primary.

The most important school in town is in excellent hands, and we regret we have no report from the teacher.

UNION STREET UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL.

MISS SARAH A. SWEETSER, TEACHER.

“The parents have taken great interest in the school during the past year; we have had 135 visitors.

During the Fall term there were sixteen scholars neither absent nor tardy; in the Winter term there were six; five others were absent but one day each, the deep snow rendering it impossible for them to come.

The deportment of the school, with few exceptions, has been excellent.

We have general exercises every Friday P. M.; also a spelling-match, in which both classes take great interest; the one in each class that remains longest upon the floor has the privilege of choosing the next week. They also manifest much interest in writing.

During the absence of the Teacher, on account of sickness, in the Winter term, the school was successfully taught by Miss Sarah L. Stoodley.”

LOWER MEDIUM SCHOOL.

MISS E. S. FOSTER, TEACHER.

“It has been my aim to make the school-room attractive to the children, and to make their school life as cheerful and pleasant as possible, thinking this one way to make it improving.

I have sought to have my scholars thoroughly understand the subjects taken up, rather than to have them go over a great extent of ground.

In conducting the recitations I have sought variety: the spelling has sometimes been oral, sometimes written; simple calisthenics have been

taken in connection with the spelling. In teaching I have not confined myself to the Reader, but have allowed the scholars to make selections from the "Nursery," etc. Map drawing has received considerable attention. I have writing Wednesdays and Fridays; drawing Tuesdays and Thursdays. The children enjoy both exercises very much, and often beg to continue them at recess or after school.

I have exercises in singing every day, and often recitations of poetry, the children sometimes reciting in concert.

I have read to them from the "Child's Book of Nature," and given them some oral instruction from it.

I find these general exercises profitable in two ways: they are improving in themselves, and tend to aid in the regular studies.

The attendance has been good, with the exception of the last term, which was somewhat broken up by the weather.

The improvement has been gratifying, especially in writing and drawing."

UPPER MEDIUM SCHOOL.

MISS MARY A. WILLIS, TEACHER.

"My first aim is to *interest* my pupils in their studies. To do this I make as much variety as possible in the recitations. I often draw by lot two from the class, who choose sides, keeping the names of each side on a slip of paper, and at the close of the recitation I report which side ranks higher. This makes them ambitious to recite as well as possible. I sometimes assign a short lesson to be written by the class. I find this particularly effectual in arithmetic, in which the improvement has been very marked. Before requiring a class to commit a lesson, I read the lesson to them, often purposely making a mistake, to be sure that all are giving their attention. Then I require them to read the lesson in concert.

Often in the morning, or just before recess, I give the whole school numbers to add mentally. I find the pupils of this school very easily governed, having, except in one instance, had no occasion to resort to corporeal punishment in the two terms I have been connected with the school."

Miss Willis has been connected with this school but two terms, the Spring term of 1872 having been taught by Mrs. M. S. Woods; and, by the exertions of both teachers, this school has become one of the best.

VILLAGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

MISS A. M. KNIGHT, TEACHER.

"The last term of the school year was pleasantly and, I think, profitably spent by the pupils of this school in review of the work done during the year. Written examinations once in two weeks. At the close of the term, examinations for promotion were given the first class. The names of the pupils, with the average per cent. of these papers, were given to the Committee, and the twelve highest in rank were promoted to the Preparatory, there being room for no more. At the beginning of the year, ten pupils from the Upper Medium entered this school; at the end of three weeks, three more, and the seats were filled.

READING. The idea I endeavor to impress upon the pupils is—first, to understand perfectly the lesson to be read; then read it so as to be understood by others. The second class are using the Fourth Reader, commenced in Lower Medium, and continued through Upper Medium. I think it would be advisable to introduce the Fifth Reader at the beginning of the first year in this school.

SPELLING. The pupils spell every reading lesson, and write a lesson learned from "Swinton's Word Book."

ARITHMETIC. First class—commenced common fractions, have taken to percentage.

Second class, commenced reduction, have finished nine problems in fractions.

We spend a few moments each day in mental exercises, and a great improvement has been made in rapidity and accuracy.

HISTORY. "Swinton's History" introduced. The class have taken period of discoveries and colonial period.

GEOGRAPHY. One class is studying the continents; the other United States. This study could be made more interesting by using maps or globe, but all the maps we have are drawn by the pupils. To vary the exercise, the class prepare questions on the lesson assigned, and conduct the recitation themselves.

GRAMMAR. First class have parsed and analyzed somewhat, but have paid more attention to incorrect construction.

Second class began this study the first term, and were doing very well; but were somewhat interrupted by the pupils promoted from Upper Medium at the beginning of second term. Both classes are expected to bring to recitation, and criticise, the incorrect sentences they hear.

MUSIC. I think every family knows with what delight the children look forward to our music lesson. We fully appreciate the instruction received from our teacher.

At the close of the year, the school will be in advance of last year, though, with the second class, the last term has been mostly a repetition of the one before, for the benefit of the pupils last promoted. Written examinations have been continued, though not as often as last year.

Teacher and scholars were considerably disappointed that they did not have either one session or an afternoon session of two hours. I think we might accomplish all we now do, and the extra hour would be of great use to the teacher in correcting papers, preparing for recitations, etc."

PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL.

MISS LENA T. WOOD, TEACHER.

"The changes made in the High School building during the Thanksgiving vacation are of great value to my school. The increased size of the school-room renders it much more cheerful, convenient and healthful, while the recitation and ante-rooms are found to be now indispensable, they add so much to the orderly conduct of the school.

Since I have had the assistance of Miss Barrus, I find the results of our work much more satisfactory than before.

My first class have, during the past term, paid some attention to the writing of compositions, alternating with declamation, and the recitation of selections in prose and verse.

The improvement already made in these exercises is gratifying to me, as the pupils show great interest in them, and work with a will.

Perhaps the results of our work are more *apparent* in the department of music than any other. I cannot speak too highly of the value of Mr. Carey's services in my school.

With his weekly lessons, and an average of fifteen minutes devoted to hard work each day, results have been attained which are, I believe, satisfactory to all who have witnessed them, and which show what might be done in this, if the pupils were trained from the Primary Schools.

My pupils have worked enthusiastically during the past year, and some have made great exertions to inform themselves on all topics in

any way connected with their lessons, and, by so doing, have accomplished far more than would otherwise be possible.

I trust the substantial fruits of our exhibition will assist them in this work in the future. I am satisfied that—although the last week of the term was disturbed by our preparations for this exhibition—the school is to be much benefitted by it in many ways.”

MAIN STREET SCHOOL.

MISS JULIA McDUFFIE, TEACHER.

“My scholars, with a few exceptions, have reached standpoints unquestionably in advance of those attained last year.

Ambition (the right kind) has seemed to be the ruling spirit of the school; and a large per cent. of the interest manifested by the younger members is due to training received at home.

My methods of teaching have been similar to those adopted last year, making reading, writing and spelling first in importance.

The school room has received a very desirable addition in “The Child’s Book of Nature.” We have completed the first book, and hope to begin the next the coming term. Its chief attraction lies in the simplicity of its language, which a very young child may comprehend. Surely no school room or home should be without one.

We have given some attention to composition writing, but not with a proportion to correspond with the importance of the branch. It is generally considered by pupils to be a very irksome duty; my plan, therefore, has been to render it less irksome, which has, thus far, met with only partial success.

The conduct of the school, during the past year, compares favorably with that of last year.”

LOWELL STREET SCHOOL.

MISS LIZZIE F. B. CLARKE, TEACHER.

“The Lowell Street School has been under my charge since Sept. 2nd. The average attendance during the Fall term was fifteen; during the Winter term, eighteen. The diversity in age rendered many classes necessary, and these, of course, were all quite small; consequently, no detailed report respecting them will be expected.

On the whole, satisfactory progress may be reported in all the studies.

My aim has been to secure the love and respect of the pupils, so that severe discipline would not be necessary. In this, gratifying success has been attained.

The importance of promptness, punctuality and thoroughness has been urged upon the pupils, rather than rapid progress; and the result appears in the increased confidence which the pupils appear to have in themselves and their attainments."

HAVERHILL STREET SCHOOL.

MISS ABBIE WAKEFIELD, TEACHER.

"I have had more scholars during the last term than during any of the other terms in the year. The scholars seem to take considerable interest in their studies.

I have a great many classes; most of the classes, excepting those in reading and spelling, consist of only one or two scholars. If these classes were larger, the scholars would have more ambition. It is quite difficult to classify them, as they are of different ages, and some of the scholars attend school only one term in the year, some two terms, and some the whole school year.

I keep the scholars employed. When a scholar has nothing to do I give him some exercises of the lower classes to correct, or to write as many words as he can think of commencing or ending with a certain letter.

I have five classes in arithmetic and geography (having three different geographies). The classes in each of these studies have made great progress. The scholars draw maps *very nicely*. I give the whole school exercises in mental arithmetic as often as I can.

The scholars write nicely. A short time most every day has been devoted to drawing.

I have two classes in spelling. The first class is very dull. The second class are very good spellers. Each class has oral and written exercises. This is one way I try to keep them interested; if they have a lesson on the names of cloths, trees, &c., I tell them to make sentences, and in each sentence bring in one word, at least, of the lesson. The scholars like it, and make very good sentences. It teaches them to compose as well as spell.

Though the scholars have made a little improvement in *reading*, there is room for *a great deal more*, especially among the older classes. For the last half of this term I have had them read selections from books or papers, and with good results.

The classes in grammar have improved much during the last term, having disliked it before.

The deportment of the school is good, very good."

WALNUT STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL.

MISS ADDIE B. HOWES, TEACHER.

"Owing to the severe weather that we have had this winter, the average attendance of the school is very low. There has been a gradual falling-off of the scholars, so that at the end of the term there are not as many scholars as at the beginning of the term. Sickness is the cause of this. My scholars, however, have made decided progress in reading, spelling, arithmetic and writing. They take a great deal of interest in obtaining information about different topics mentioned in their lessons. The general deportment of the school is good."

WALNUT STREET GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

MISS E. M. PORTER, TEACHER.

"I have been connected with this school one term. There are two classes in each study, except in arithmetic, in which three were required. The first class have advanced in arithmetic from decimal fractions to duodecimals; the second class have studied common fractions to decimals; and the third commenced written arithmetic this term, and have studied it in connection with the mental arithmetic, performing examples written for them each day upon the black-board. They can now do examples in long division. All the classes in arithmetic have nearly every day performed examples in review placed upon the board, together with the advance lesson. In geography, the first class are studying the United States, and the second class have studied the Continents of North America and Africa. The recitations in geography have consisted of drawing the state or country, reciting from the topics of surface, soil, climate, productions, occupations, etc., giving information gleaned from other

sources than the geography, also items pertaining to the history of the state or country.

In grammar, they have studied analysis, parsing and writing sentences; also correcting sentences. The lesson has usually been written upon the Board.

The spelling lesson has been written each day in blank-books, and both a written and an oral examination have been given every week. They also spell, each day, words from a given paragraph or paragraphs in their reading lesson.

In writing, I have only sought to prepare them for classification another term.

I have marked the scholars for each recitation, and also for deportment, and the system has worked well.

During the past eight weeks, I have given them written examinations every week."

WOBURN STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL.

MISS L. F. LORING, TEACHER.

"Owing to the severity of the weather, my school has not been so large as usual. My scholars have made decided progress in their studies, especially in geography. I pay particular attention to spelling, having the children write or print their lesson every day upon the black-board; and, in case a scholar misspells a word, he loses his place in the class. They are all anxious to do well, and seldom make a failure. Have had no general exercise in the school, but shall introduce something of the kind next term. The deportment is very good, and I have not been obliged to resort to severe discipline. Have made but three rules. 1st. No whispering. 2nd. No idleness. 3rd. No questions while a class is reciting. By adhering strictly to these, I find no others are necessary. I give short lessons, and require them to be well learned."

WOBURN STREET GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

MRS. F. NELLIE TEMPLE, TEACHER.

This school has been under the charge of Mrs. Temple for one year, and the Committee know of no reason for a change. We regret that the teacher has been unable to furnish us a report, as her suggestions would be valuable.

HIGH SCHOOL.

CYRUS A. COLE, PRINCIPAL.

“Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee:

The recent changes made in the High School curriculum and in the length of the English and scientific course will necessitate, for a time, some inconvenience in regard to the most judicious daily arrangement of studies and recitations. Theoretically, there are three classes; but, practically, we must regard the school as consisting of four divisions.

In the report submitted to the Committee last Spring, due reference was made to the prospective work of the High School for the closing term of the last school year. The following, therefore, presents a tabular view of the studies pursued by the different classes during the Fall and Winter terms of the present school year:

	FALL.	WINTER.
1st Class.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \text{ English Literature.} \\ 2. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Modern History.} \\ \text{Astronomy.} \end{array} \right. \\ 3. \text{ French — Les Princes del'Art.} \\ 4. \text{ Essays.} \end{array} \right.$	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \text{ English Literature.} \\ 2. \text{ Physical Geography.} \\ 3. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Télémaque.} \\ \text{German.} \end{array} \right. \\ 4. \text{ Essays.} \end{array} \right.$
2d Class.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \text{ Natural Philosophy.} \\ 2. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Rhetoric.} \\ \text{Essays.} \end{array} \right. \\ 3. \text{ French — Grammar, Exercises.} \end{array} \right.$	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \text{ Natural Philosophy.} \\ 2. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Rhetoric.} \\ \text{Essays.} \end{array} \right. \\ 3. \text{ French — Télémaque.} \end{array} \right.$
3d Class, 1st Division.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \text{ Reading and Definitions.} \\ 2. \text{ Algebra.} \\ 3. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{*Chemistry.} \\ \text{Compositions.} \\ \text{Descriptions.} \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right.$	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Reading.} \\ \text{Rhetoric, Essays.} \end{array} \right. \\ 2. \text{ Geometry.} \\ 3. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Chemistry.} \\ \text{Descriptions.} \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right.$
3d Class, 2d Div.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \text{ Reading and Definitions.} \\ 2. \text{ Algebra.} \\ 3. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Chemistry.} \\ \text{Descriptions.} \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right.$	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \text{ Reading and Definitions.} \\ 2. \text{ Algebra.} \\ 3. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Physiology.} \\ \text{Written Exercises.} \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right.$

Word-analysis, arithmetic, spelling and music have been studied by the whole school.

It is not expedient to make particular reference to the value and relative importance of all the various studies. I have thought it desirable, therefore, to consider only a few of them:

* As there were no classes in chemistry last year, it will be observed that both divisions of the third class began this study in the Fall.

Swinton's Word-Analysis.—The first and second classes have considered all the topics presented by the author. The third class will complete the text-book next term. This book, though having the merit of being small, contains much more than can be profitably studied and thoroughly mastered in a single school term.

The value of a thorough study of etymology cannot be too highly estimated; hence, in connection with all the different studies pursued in the school, constant reference is made to the generic meaning of words, and the various effects produced by the proper use of prefixes and suffixes.

Arithmetic.—Daily attention has been paid to this subject. The effort to secure accuracy and rapidity in *adding* has been most successful and satisfactory.

Geometry.—On the occasion of the last graduating exercises of the school there was a recitation in geometry, conducted according to the method presented in last year's report. Experience has demonstrated the value of this method, whose adoption, combined with faithful study on the part of the scholar, affords not only a knowledge of geometrical truths, but, in addition, will enable him to concentrate his mind the more readily upon any topic which he may desire to consider; it will teach him precision of statement, and will impart also correct ideas of logical sequence of thought.

A class in mechanical drawing will be formed next Fall.

Chemistry.—Educators have written much in relation to the importance of chemistry as a subject which should receive more general consideration in our public schools. One readily apprehends the utility of the truths of this science, when he considers not only the relation which it sustains to the arts and manufactures, but, also, what it has done in ameliorating the condition of the human race, and in otherwise aiding the progress of civilization. If this branch be properly taught and studied, I conceive it to be a most invaluable instrument for the natural and healthful development of the intellectual faculties. Our text-books present the truths of chemistry with hardly any reference to the proper mode of communicating them, and, consequently, can hardly fulfil the true purpose of higher education, "which is not so much to fill the mind as to quicken and train its powers—not so much to impart knowledge as to awaken thought." Chemistry is an experimental science. I would have the pupil experiment for himself, observe chemical phenomena, deduce conclusions, and record results. Since he reasons only by com-

paring, I would have him study the relations of facts acquired ; uniting, if there be resemblance ; separating, if there be distinctions. He thus learns, practically, that science is knowledge systematically arranged, and, in a measure, acquires the ability to classify, — an acquisition which will prove to be of the greatest aid and value to him in his studies, during his connection with the High School and after his graduation from it.

“ Things before names, ideas before words,” should be regarded an axiom in all teaching. Having gained definite ideas for himself through his own effort, it is now necessary that the pupil be taught to express, in appropriate language, any knowledge of facts which his experience has enabled him to acquire.

It is easy to understand, that if the pupil has improved the opportunity afforded him for studying chemistry in the manner indicated, *he will have a most suitable preparation for the thorough study of any of the branches he may be obliged to consider during his school course.*

In this connection I desire to recognize the obligations due the Alumni of the High School and others, who have provided suitable facilities for instruction in the physical sciences.

History. I am firmly impressed with the thought that no study is required to be pursued by the pupil which is of more vital importance, or which has a greater bearing upon his future interests and welfare, than history. I use the term in its noblest and most comprehensive sense.

The plan proposed for its consideration — having reference to the age of the public, the magnitude of the topics to be discussed, and the limited time possible to devote to any one branch — will enable the teacher, it is believed, to realize more fully the ideal standard fixed upon. Constant endeavor is made to avoid burdening the pupil's memory with numerous barren, isolated facts, dates, or great events, which are more or less important ; but the desire is, rather, to introduce him to generally received solutions of the more simple problems of history, in its manifold relations to the individual, and, as far as possible, prepare him to deal, in after life, with the great sociological questions of the age.”

The annual examination of the High School took place June 7th. The exercises reflected credit alike upon teachers and pupils.

The history of the graduating class was presented in an in-

teresting production by Miss Jennie R. Barrus, while Miss Lillie F. Loring brought the memories of all the struggles and pleasures of the class vividly to mind in the class poem. Miss Cynthia E. Hollis brought honor to herself and her class by the valedictory.

Diplomas, presented by the Chairman of the Committee, were awarded to the following

GRADUATES : CLASS OF 1872.

WALTER B. BARROWS.	HORACE B. HOLDEN.
JENNIE R. BARRUS.	CYNTHIA E. HOLLIS.
IDA I. BASSETT.	ADDIE B. HOWES.
MARY E. BUCKE.	CHARLES H. HUTCHINSON.
NELLIE BURRILL.	LILLIE F. LORING.
H. IRVING CONVERSE.	L. GERTRUDE MCINTIRE.
BELLE P. DINSMOORE.	HATTIE A. PARKER.
EMMA EAMES.	LIZZIE M. PENNEY.
GEORGE LOUIS FLINT.	HATTIE B. PRATT.
E. H. GOWING.	MINNIE A. WILLCOX.
MINA W. HALL.	ERISTINA WHITTIER.

The class presented to the school the busts of Shakespeare and Milton.

Mr. Cole has been assisted by Miss Martha Keith, who possesses all those essential traits that make the successful teacher ; and those who have watched her do not wonder that she contributes so much to the work of Mr. Cole,—that with him the school cannot be surpassed.

The Committee have endeavored to give the school a curriculum which will, in time, make the education received by its members more practical, as it is conceived that the object of a High School is to prepare the youth of the community for the battles of life, not of letters. To this end a three years' course has been established ; but it will be readily understood that only the present lowest and incoming classes can adopt this system. Those who had been connected with the school prior to its adoption must complete the old course.

It is earnestly recommended that the curriculum be extended through all schools, from the Primary to the High. The advantages of this would be many and great, but among the great-

est, that new teachers could always know the exact position of the various classes they find.

TEACHERS.

Of those who were connected with our schools last year and still remain, the best we can say is, we want them to remain; they have been tried and proven to be capable, faithful instructors. In this list are Mr. Cole, Mrs. Temple, Misses McDuffie, Wood, Knight, Foster, Sweetser and Pratt. Most of the new ones came fresh from our own High School, and they have, without exception, met the expectations of their friends and the requirements of the Committee. They have taken up their work with vigor and an ambition to reflect credit upon their Alma Mater. We speak of Misses Clarke, Howes, Barrus, Wakefield and Loring, and with them we ought to mention Miss Lovejoy, who was with Miss Pratt in the Union Street Primary for a few weeks, where she gave entire satisfaction, and evinced excellent qualification for the work.

Miss Porter is not a stranger to our town; she took the place of Miss Shaw in the Walnut Street Grammar School, and has met with decided success.

Miss Willis came a stranger, and has completely won the hearts of her pupils and the entire approbation of the Committee.

The town is to be congratulated upon the efficient corps of teachers now connected with our schools. The Committee would not know where to make a change.

SCHOOL HOUSES.

The school buildings are in general good condition, and cannot be improved without the expenditure of large sums of money.

In a few years there will be needed a new structure in the village. The tendency is to concentrate, and it is, perhaps, the best policy, for pupils can have better advantages, when large numbers are under the control of one mind, than when scattered in various wards.

A change has been made which relieves the pressure of last year. In accordance with the suggestions of the Committee then, the Preparatory High School room has been enlarged so as to use one-half of the room formerly occupied by the Village Grammar School, while the other half is used as a recitation room. This gives a seating capacity of seventy-two to this school, nearly equal that of the High School room.

This change necessitated the removal of Miss Knight's Village Grammar School to Union Hall, which has been well fitted up for her accommodation.

The Committee strongly urge the removal of the Library from the High School building; the room is needed greatly for a recitation room for the High School; it is, in fact, indispensable; and it is earnestly hoped that action will be taken at the approaching town meeting.

MUSIC.

Prof. Carey has given the High, Preparatory High and Village Grammar Schools excellent instruction in music, and it would be well to extend his labors to the lower schools, a work which can be done with comparatively small additional expense. Those schools in which music has been taught have made wonderful progress.

DRAWING

Should be taught, according to the act of 1870, but our appropriation was not sufficient to allow us to meet the requirements of the law.

ATTENDANCE.

The severe winter has very much interfered with the attendance of scholars, and the average falls below that of last year.'

VENTILATION AND HEATING.

The Town, at the November meeting, generously authorized the ventilation of the school rooms; but for various reasons the work has not been done. The deficient heating apparatus of several of the rooms has precluded the idea of ventilation; but the Committee would advise careful attention to the matter during the spring term.

That something ails the High School heating apparatus we think the members of that school and the one below will unanimously agree. And the Committee, having exhausted all the means at hand to remedy existing defects, advise a thorough overhauling of the furnaces during summer vacation; it could not be done in term time.

SCHOOL APPARATUS.

The High School is partially provided for in in this direction, and thanks to the exertions and generosity of friends of the school, it is now paid for, and Mr. Cole has been reimbursed the outlay he undertook to put the school into proper condition. But other schools need maps, globes, reference books, etc., and these things the town should provide, not leaving teachers and schools to purchase them out of their own funds or by exhibitions.

PROMOTIONS.

The most thankless duty the Committee have to perform is in connection with promotions. The Committee desire, of course, to promote all that are sufficiently advanced to warrant a step forward; but they have been unable to discover *any* means by which two pupils can comfortably occupy one seat. If twelve desire advancement, and ten only can go up, it matters not how you arrange it, two will be disappointed; and the Committee have been pained to learn that parents have taken their children out of school because they were not promoted. Some rule *must* be made, and more, when the rule *is* made it *must* be adhered to. If it is broken once, why not twice? If the per cent. established be eighty the candidate must get eighty, not seventy-nine and three-fourths.

Hereafter promotions will be made on the standing of the scholar for the whole year, and the Committee will act by the number and standing of the candidate, without knowing the names, and the result will be strictly adhered to.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

The law allows, when towns so vote, the employment of a Superintendent of Schools. The advantages of having the

schools under the supervision of one man must be apparent without argument, and the Committee urgently advise that they be empowered to act in the matter. If a Superintendent be employed, the elected Committee would attend to prudential affairs, and, of course, without pay.

APPROPRIATIONS.

It is not thought that any funds will be needed for purposes outside the ordinary expenses of the school during the year.

The incidental expenses have been heavier than usual, on account of the changes made in the Preparatory High School room and the fitting up of Union Hall. The extra severity of the winter has increased the fuel estimates.

The appropriation was \$8,000. We have overdrawn this amount \$45.25.

The Committee would recommend that the Town appropriate for schools, the ensuing year, the sum of eighty-five hundred dollars.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Two vacancies exist by the expiration of the terms of service of Messrs. Barrus and Parker. These vacancies are to be filled at the coming April meeting.

A vacancy also exists by the resignation of Mr. C. B. McIntire, which must also be filled by election at the coming Town Meeting. Mr. McIntire was elected last year for two years. His resignation has been received since making up our report.

Respectfully submitted,

CARROLL D. WRIGHT,	} <i>School</i> <i>Committee.</i>
HIRAM BARRUS,	
S. E. PARKER,	
WM. J. WIGHTMAN,	
C. B. MCINTIRE,	
A. E. WINSHIP,	

Reading, March 17, 1873.

